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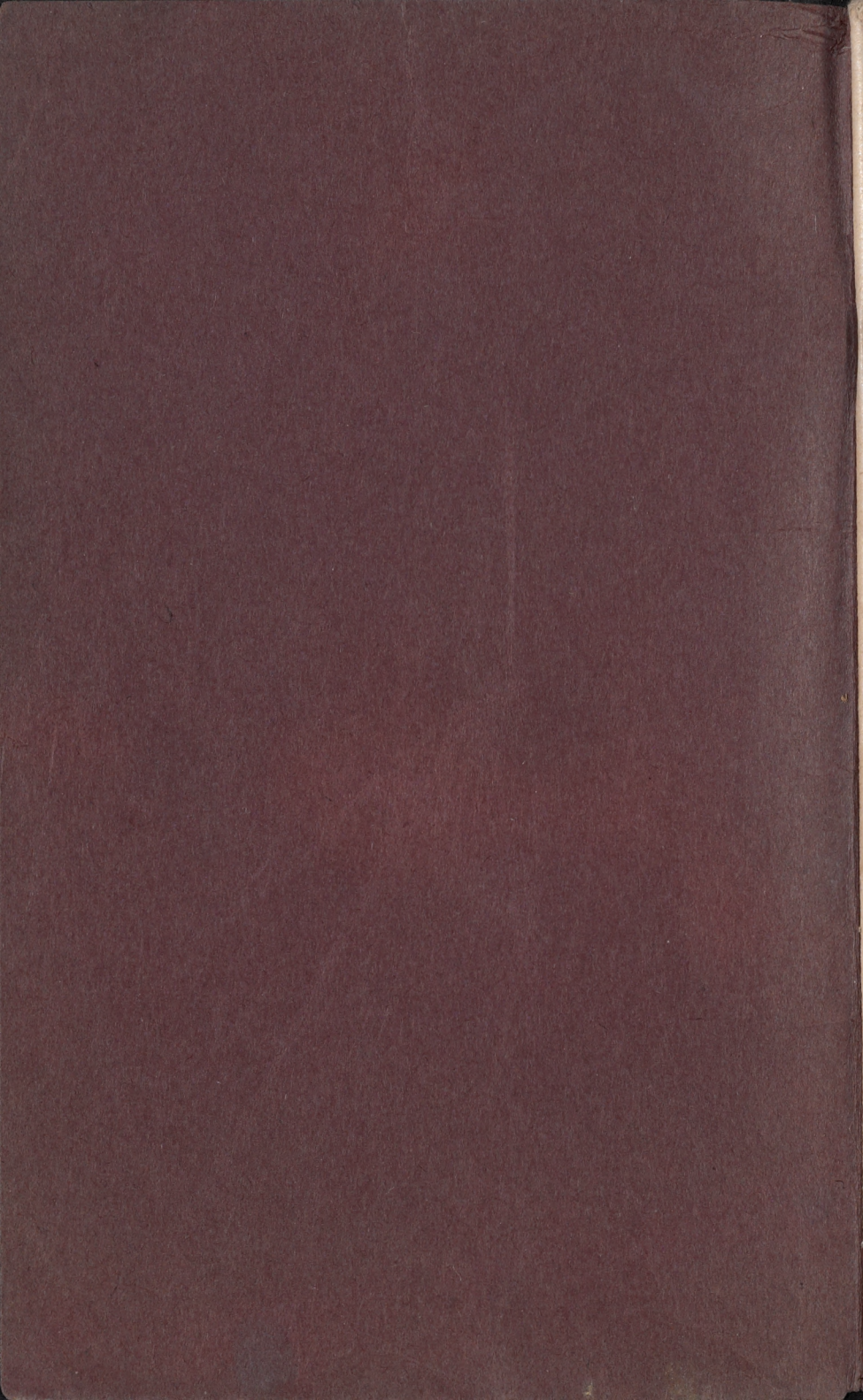
THE
SASKATCHEWAN
HANDBOOK

1921

AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE
SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT

PRICE 10 CENTS





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OF THE
Saskatchewan Provincial Government

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Aims and Achievements of the Saskatchewan Provincial Government

INTRODUCTORY

The Government of the Province of Saskatchewan holds a unique place among the provincial governments of Canada. When the present Government took office in 1917 after an overwhelming victory at the polls, on a broad platform based upon "the prosperity of the people of Saskatchewan and the building up of a sound and healthy citizenship," there was no time lost in carrying into effect as far as possible a progressive and enlightened policy which the confidence of the electorate and the energy and ability of their chosen representatives made possible. The Province in common with all portions of the British Empire, was bearing its share of the heavy burdens imposed by the war, and the Government of the Province, ignoring any party considerations, co-operated loyally with the Federal government in all measures deemed necessary to carry on Canada's part in winning the war. In Canada, as in other countries, the world-war created new problems which had to be dealt with by those in authority, and when the war was over the Government of Saskatchewan, as a government, quietly dropped without any flourish of trumpets, the policy which up to that time had been part and parcel of the political life of Canada: that the party in power in any Province should lend the whole weight of its organisation to the Federal party of the same political faith.

From the day it assumed office, the present Government has made it very plain that it considered its paramount duty was to serve to the utmost of its ability the best interests of the people and the Province of Saskatchewan. While this duty involved the insisting upon certain fundamental rights withheld from the Province by the Federal government, these claims being first incorporated in the famous "Saskatchewan Bill of Rights" which was unanimously indorsed by the supporters of the Government at a convention previous to the 1917 election and afterwards indorsed by the Saskatchewan Legislature, it was not long before there were evidences of a radical departure in this Province from the accepted practice of provincial governments in Canada. In the spring of 1920 Premier Martin stated frankly and clearly that so long as he remained Premier of Saskatchewan the Government of which he was the head would not align itself with any party in Federal politics. It has been made perfectly plain by members of the Government on the public platform that as citizens of Canada they retained their right to support whichever party they were most in sympathy with, but as a government their whole duty was to the people of Saskatchewan.

Since its incorporation as a province, Saskatchewan has been fortunate in having a true "People's Government." The Government has always been close to the people, instantly responsive to the varied needs of a great and growing province. The present Government has preserved the confidence of the people to such an extent that even after the organised farmers of three of the provinces of Canada had decided to enter the provincial political field, the most powerful farmers' organisation in Canada in the leading agricultural province of the Dominion, decided by an overwhelming majority that the organised farmers of Saskatchewan would not enter the provincial political field.

While the active co-operation of the people has been sought in all its undertakings there has been no attempt made to shirk responsibilities and the outstanding characteristic of the present Government has been the courage and resourcefulness with which new problems have been attacked and solved, and the intelligent leadership given the people by a government that has sought in all departmental administration to provide a wise, honest and economical management of the people's affairs. The fact that the open opponents of the Government as well as its secret foes, inflamed by personal ambition and seeking any weapon which would inflict a wound, have been unable to find any fault with the present administration except the most trifling matters which have easily been disproved, is sufficient proof that the confidence of the electors has been amply justified.

The keynote struck by this Government when first entering office has been consistently adhered to. The Government has sought to inaugurate and encourage measures to increase the prosperity of the people, and hand in hand with this endeavour has been a sincere and single-minded effort to build up a sound and healthy citizenship. The efforts of the Government have been devoted as faithfully and energetically towards securing better schools, better laws, better health conditions, better treatment and greater opportunity for the unfortunate and the handicapped, as they have been towards securing better roads, better railway facilities, better farming methods, better credit and better markets and marketing conditions for the farmers of the Province, better methods for relieving unemployment and improving the condition of workers and especially of female workers, a better telephone service and better regulations for places of amusement, for regulating highway traffic and all the multifarious activities carried on by the various departments of the Government.

The policies adopted have been far-sighted, looking to the future as well as to the immediate present. While the beneficial results of the measures put into effect are already evident, the future of the Province will bear even stronger testimony to the patriotism and foresight of a government which has found its strength in a single-minded devotion to the permanent good of the people, instead of advocating policies framed to secure a transient popularity. No higher tribute could be paid any government than the manner in which the people of Saskatchewan have repaid trust with trust, and devotion to their interests with a generous support which has foiled insidious plots to sow discord amid the ranks of those who have one common aim, the permanent welfare of Saskatchewan.

FINANCES

The balance sheet of any business concern gives a very fair indication of the ability and efficiency of its management. The financial administration of the Province of Saskatchewan by the present Government, has been conspicuously successful. The Government has been economical and at the same time progressive. It has invested money without stint for the education of future citizens of the Province. It has been generous and almost lavish in its expenditure for the mentally afflicted, for neglected and dependent children, for the widow and the orphan. It has been quick to respond to sudden calls for tiding settlers over a period of disastrous crop failures. But in the face of necessary and heavy expenditures, there has been such a careful husbanding of the financial resources of the Province and such resourcefulness in meeting the demands of an exceptionally trying period, that no province in Canada is in a sounder financial position than the new Province of Saskatchewan. At the very lowest point of the financial depression in the early part of 1921 a most flattering compliment to the business management of Saskatchewan was the ready sale of \$3,000,000 of Saskatchewan 6 per cent. bonds at the exceedingly satisfactory price of 97.637, a better price than even Ontario secured at the same period.

The *Financial Post* commenting on the sale stated: "Ontario paid 6.28 per cent. for its money and Saskatchewan paid slightly under 6.25. There is, of course, the fact that Saskatchewan's issue was \$3,000,000 and Ontario's \$10,000,000 to be considered, but this is offset by the fact that Saskatchewan is a smaller province and a western province and that its bonds were fifteen years as against Ontario's twenty years.

"The two sales coming so closely together afforded an excellent opportunity for comparison and the comparison seems to be very much in favour of Saskatchewan's sale and method of sale."

The financial policy of the Saskatchewan Government was well defined by the Provincial Treasurer in his Budget speech to the Legislative Assembly on December 6, 1920, when discussing the public debt of the Province. The gross debt of the Province is made up of two different items—a dead weight expenditure, and a debt incurred for the creation of revenue-producing utilities. The dead weight debt interest would have to be paid from revenue derived from taxation, but the interest on the other debt is paid by revenue from the earnings of utilities.

That portion of the gross debt which is revenue producing amounts to \$20,808,801. The gross debt of the Province amounts to \$41,549,480.87, so that the net debt of the Province consequently amounts to \$19,416,237.05 making the net per capita debt for 1920 \$23.30, these facts indicating that the Government is going very slowly and carefully in regard to increasing the dead weight debt of the Province while it is willing to move much faster in regard to the revenue-producing debt. Considered either from

the point of view of gross or net debt, Saskatchewan has the lowest per capita debt among the provinces of Western Canada.

In the same Budget speech it was announced that the Province had a net cash surplus of \$1,801,095.20 for the year then closing, and that the financial position of the Province was so satisfactory the Government had determined to propose to the Legislature the abolition of the Supplementary Revenue Tax, and this tax was forthwith abolished.

That portion of the public debt which is revenue producing or self-sustaining includes \$9,422,000 for the purchase and construction, including town and city exchanges, long distance lines, etc., for the Saskatchewan Telephone system; \$3,357,000 loaned to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, Limited; \$5,687,000 advanced to the Saskatchewan Farm Loan Board for the purpose of loaning money to Saskatchewan farmers; \$638,000 for agricultural aids; \$267,000 for a loan to The Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League, and \$214,000 advanced to defray cost of expenditure of drainage works; the City of Regina loan for the purpose of enabling civic authorities to assist citizens in rebuilding properties destroyed by the cyclone. The following gives the capital expenditure of the Province of Saskatchewan from formation of the Province in 1905 to October 31, 1920:

Capital Expenditures

Public Improvements—

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Bridges..... | \$2,544,000 |
| Permanent Highways..... | 3,415,000 |
| Aid to municipalities in the construction of highways..... | 738,000 |
| Relief work on public improvements to aid distress owing to drought in the fall of 1914 | 1,110,000 |
| Ferries, expropriation of land and miscellaneous..... | 49,000 |
| | <hr/> \$7,856,000 |

Public Buildings—

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Public buildings erected for administration purposes (Parliament Building, Land Titles Offices, etc.)..... | \$4,007,000 |
| Public buildings erected for judicial and correctional purposes (Court Houses, Jails, etc.)..... | 1,774,000 |
| Public buildings erected for benevolent purposes (Hospitals and Sanatorium)..... | 3,189,000 |
| Public buildings erected for educational purposes (University and Normal Schools)... | 2,525,000 |
| Expenditure in connection with memorials—War Memorial Museum..... | 23,000 |
| | <hr/> 11,518,000 |

Telephone System—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Purchases and construction, including town and city exchanges, long distance lines, etc..... | 9,422,000 |
|--|-----------|

Elevators—

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Loans to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, Limited..... | 3,357,000 |
|---|-----------|

Forward.....\$32,153,000

Capital Expenditures—Continued

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Brought forward..... | \$32,153,000 |
| City of Regina— | | |
| | Loan for the purpose of enabling the civic authorities to assist citizens in rebuilding properties destroyed by cyclone..... | 500,000 |
| Farm Loans— | | |
| | Advances to the Saskatchewan Farm Loan Board for the purpose of loaning money to Saskatchewan farmers | 5,687,000 |
| Agricultural Aids— | | |
| | Loans to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, Limited..... | \$361,000 |
| | Loans for the purchase of live stock, etc., under The Agricultural Aids Act..... | 277,000 |
| | | <u>638,000</u> |
| Drainage Districts— | | |
| | Advances to defray cost of construction of drainage works | 214,000 |
| Sanatorium— | | |
| | Loan to The Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League.. | 267,000 |
| | Total of Capital Expenditures.... | <u>\$39,459,000</u> |
| Patriotic Aids— | | |
| | Expenditures necessary owing to the great war for the reason that provision had to be made for the same out of borrowed moneys thus affecting the public debt..... | 638,000 |
| | Total..... | <u>\$40,097,000</u> |

PUBLIC DEBT

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| | October 31, 1920. |
| Gross public debt..... | \$41,549,480 .87 |
| Less moneys raised to provide for expenditures being in the nature of investments which carry own public debt charges, comprising loans to: Telephone System; Sask. Co-operative Elevator Co., Ltd.; City of Regina; Sask. Farm Loans Board; Agricultural Aids Act; Anti-Tuberculosis League of Sask.; Drainage Districts.... | \$20,808,801 .52 |
| Sinking funds created for the redemption of debt other than expenditures as above..... | 1,324,442 .30 |
| | <u>22,133,243 .82</u> |
| Net Public Debt..... | <u>\$19,416,237 .05</u> |

Debt per Capita: Gross \$49.86. Net \$23.30.

The net public debt represents the investments of the people of Saskatchewan in public buildings, court houses, university, mental hospital, land titles offices, roads and bridges—every form of public institutions required by a progressive and public-spirited people. The Parliament building, described by one of England's most gifted writers as "A superb, great House of Parliament—a noble building," the beautiful University buildings of Saskatchewan limestone, with the University bridge across the Saskatchewan, considered the finest concrete bridge in Canada, the dignity and high architectural quality of the court houses, collegiate institutes and other public buildings erected by the Province—all show that the Government of the Province has always had a keen appreciation of the high place which Saskatchewan is destined to hold in the future development of Canada. The present Government has avoided any unnecessary expenditure, but in its developmental policy it has consistently planned for a greater Saskatchewan, with public institutions of permanent value and usefulness, so that the future generations who will benefit by them can bear with the present citizens their proper share of the financial burden.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In a province which is pre-eminently agricultural like the Province of Saskatchewan, the Provincial Department of Agriculture has to shoulder heavy responsibilities. Fortunately for the department and the Province, this heavy load has been lightened in Saskatchewan by the spirit of co-operation which has been for years past the guiding principle of the department.

There is no provincial department of agriculture in the Dominion where the Government has kept so closely in touch with the agricultural industry in all its phases as the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, which is looked upon by the farmers of the Province as their own department, with the minister at the head selected from their own ranks, and with capable and energetic officials in whose ability they have the deepest confidence, in charge of the various branches of the service.

While less criticism is heard about the present Government than there has been of any government that has filled office in Western Canada, one hears occasionally in cities and towns of the Province the complaint that "The Saskatchewan Provincial Government is altogether too much of a farmers' government and the farmers of the Province can get anything they want from the Government." This is one of the half-truths which contain both truth and falsehood. The Saskatchewan Provincial Government recognises that the prosperity of the Province depends absolutely upon the measure of prosperity achieved by the agricultural industry of the Province. The Government has therefore done everything in its power, and rightly so, to frame and carry into effect a policy which will tend to better the lot of the farmers of the Province.

It is also true that many of the measures put into effect by the present Government have been proposed and supported by the farmers of the Province, but it is equally true that no fair-minded person can give a single instance where any request made by the farmers of the Province as a body was not based upon a real need, and where the granting of the request did not work out for the best interests of the Province as a whole. There is the most cordial co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the farmers of the Province, and thus it has been possible to broaden the scope of the department in lines of work which otherwise could not have been attempted, like the flourishing co-operative enterprises in which Saskatchewan has led the rest of the Dominion.

The principle of co-operation has entered very largely into the life of the Province, not only in the building up of great industries like the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, Ltd., the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, Limited, and the newly organised and rapidly growing co-operative live stock marketing industry, assisted by the Northern and Southern Saskatchewan Co-operative Live Stock Yards, but in meeting sudden emergencies like the grasshopper outbreaks which

were such a serious menace over a wide area of the Province the past two summers. Many districts were caught unprepared in 1919, but the department went energetically to work, assisted in organising the farmers in the municipalities infested, and the loss was kept down to a moderate figure. There was every likelihood of a more serious and more general outbreak in 1920, and early in the winter months, plans were matured for the 1920 campaign. The organisation work was most thorough and the campaign mapped out depended entirely for its success upon the municipal officials co-operating in the very fullest measure with the Department of Agriculture. As the grasshoppers were expected to begin emerging from the eggs about the same time over a wide area of the Province it was necessary to have the organisation completed, the supplies for the poison bait purchased and stored at convenient points, and the officials of the Department of Agriculture and of the various municipalities all fully prepared to carry out the definite duties outlined in the general plan of campaign. It is to the credit of the municipalities and their officials, under the leadership of the Agriculture Department, that every municipality carried out its part of the organisation, as a consequence of which the total crop loss of the Province was estimated at only 45,000 acres, slightly more than the estimated loss of a single county in North Dakota directly across the boundary line from Saskatchewan. The total supplies furnished to municipalities for the season included 2,720 tons of bran, 225 tons of sawdust, 2,805 cases of lemons, 166 tons of arsenic, 34 tons of paris green, the total cost, including freight, amounting to \$364,-269.68, and the total money value of the crop saved being estimated conservatively at well over \$25,000,000.

While the municipalities paid half the cost of the ingredients used in the poison bait, this represented only a fraction of what the campaign would have cost if each municipality had each been left to its own resources, as the department was in the market months before and bought the poison and other ingredients in large quantities at wholesale rates.

BETTER FARMING COMMISSION

The Saskatchewan Government has always afforded substantial assistance to farmers who were so unfortunate as to suffer from crop failure, and one of the first things done by Honourable C. M. Hamilton when he became Minister of Agriculture in the Provincial Government was to arrange for a conference at Swift Current to study agricultural conditions in the south-western part of the Province and outline an agricultural policy for the south-west which would reduce somewhat the losses and disappointments of drought years. He called to his assistance practical farmers from the south-west and trained agriculture leaders from our University and Experimental farms, and from similar institutions in Montana and the Dakotas. The outcome was the appointment of a commission under the chairmanship of Dean Rutherford to devote special study to the problem. The report of the commission has been made public and the adoption of their recommendations should go far to reduce the hazard and avoid the loss and disappointment to which portions of Saskatchewan have been subject during recent years. Copies of the report may be obtained free from the Department of Agriculture, Regina.

AGRICULTURAL AIDS

The amounts annually expended by the government for fostering and aiding agriculture are quite large and have been increasing from year to year. The following are the amounts appropriated for Agricultural Aids in the four years, 1917-1921 inclusive:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1917-1918..... | \$330,000 |
| 1918-1919..... | 350,000 |
| 1919-1920..... | 439,000 |
| 1920-1921..... | 473,500 |

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Generous assistance is given to the Agricultural Societies of the Province, on the same broad principles of co-operation, in carrying on the work of educational agriculture. Including four new societies organised that year, there were 143 Agricultural Societies in Saskatchewan in 1920, the government grants for 1919-20 amounting to \$74,582.00.

SEED GRAIN AND FEED DISTRIBUTION

It is the hope of all that Saskatchewan will soon reach the stage where farmers in all parts of the Province will have sufficient reserve to be able to stand one or more poor crops without having to receive Government assistance, but every new country has to pass through the same experience as this Province, only few have had a government so ready to assist those requiring help in getting a fresh start with seed and feed to carry them over to another crop.

SASKATCHEWAN CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATOR CO.

When the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company was first formed, under legislation passed by the Saskatchewan Legislature in the year 1911, there were many who had grave doubts as to its ultimate success. But these fears have long since proved to be groundless, and the company today stands unique in two respects, first, that it furnishes undoubtedly the most efficient system of marketing yet devised, and second, that it is by far the largest initial grain handling concern in the whole world.

The growth of the company and the increase in the extent of its operations has been little short of phenomenal. Commencing its first year with 46 elevators and less than 3,000 shareholders, it now has 322 elevators dotted all over the Province, besides terminal and hospital elevators with total capacity of 5,300,000 bushels, and there are 21,000 shareholders. Up to a date in the last week of February of this year, it has handled since it commenced business the enormous amount of 209,416,891 bushels of grain.

The financial strength of the company is all that could be desired. In every case it has met at maturity all its obligations to the Government which financed it, has paid satisfactory dividends to its shareholders, and in addition has saved for the farmers of the Province when marketing their grain untold sums of money.

The total grain handled by the commission department of the Company since it commenced operations is 185,293,608 bushels, and the consigned grain handled by the same department amounts to 98,920,350 bushels, neither of these figures including the year 1920-21. The following table shows the growth of the enterprise:

| Season | No. of shareholders | No. of elevators | Grain handled through elevators | Grain handled on commission |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1911-12..... | 2,597 | 46 | 3,262,000 | |
| 1912-13..... | 8,963 | 137 | 12,899,030 | 12,761,686 |
| 1913-14..... | 13,156 | 192 | 19,465,290 | 19,290,531 |
| 1914-15..... | 14,742 | 210 | 18,764,653 | 13,642,807 |
| 1915-16..... | 18,077 | 230 | 39,089,269 | 39,504,375 |
| 1916-17..... | 19,317 | 268 | 32,359,725 | 33,310,773 |
| 1917-18..... | 20,683 | 309 | 25,994,552 | 26,554,277 |
| 1918-19..... | 21,032 | 312 | 20,823,138 | 21,034,251 |
| 1919-20..... | 21,143 | 313 | 19,512,000 | 18,973,421 |
| 1920-21..... | 21,274 | 322 | 22,035,119 | Feb. 22 |

SASKATCHEWAN CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERIES

Under the fostering legislation of the Government, there has been a most remarkable development of the dairying industry in this Province. Fourteen years ago in the year 1907, when the Government of Saskatchewan took over from the Dominion Government the care of the infant dairying industry, there were just four creameries struggling not very successfully for existence and the total number of patrons was only 213. Now there are close to 13,000 patrons and there are twenty-three co-operative creameries, united under the legislation of 1917 into one strong company under central management, which occupies in relation to the dairymen much the same position as the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company does towards the grain growers. During the last three years, this company has manufactured an average of nearly three million pounds of butter each year, and during the five war years the production of butter increased slightly over 85 per cent. which is a most remarkable record in view of the fact that several of the seasons were the reverse of favourable to the industry.

CO-OPERATIVE COLD STORAGE PLANTS

There are six co-operative cold storage plants owned and operated by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries Company, Ltd., and two more are being built. The capacity in cubic feet, of refrigeration space in the six cold storage plants in operation reaches the high total of 301,588 cubic feet.

The success of this company is such that patrons and shareholders alike are well satisfied, and it has been claimed that this is one of the best organised and established agricultural industries in Canada, which is every day furnishing proof of the entire suitability of Saskatchewan climate and conditions for the pursuit of diversified farming.

THE CO-OPERATIVE POLICY

The co-operative policy of the Department of Agriculture is based upon the principle that the farmers of the Province are capable of handling their own business, only requiring assistance and guidance when undertaking a new line of work, and the practical working out of this policy is shown in the development of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers' Association as well as the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries. The co-operative marketing of wool was carried on from 1914 to 1920 by the Co-operative Branch of the department, until the work had grown so that the department decided the time had arrived when this work could be done by the farmers themselves.

In 1914 when the Co-operative Branch first undertook the co-operative marketing of wool, there were 179 consignments received, with a total weight of 69,404 pounds. In 1915 there were 318 consignments with a total weight of 150,328 pounds; in 1916 there were 487 consignments with total weight of 179,890 pounds, a big increase in 1917 when 623 consignments were received with total weight of 223,445 pounds; 916 consignments totalling 394,068 pounds in 1918, and 1,103 consignments weighing a total of 553,491 pounds in 1919.

LIVE STOCK BRANCH

In diversified farming lies the future prosperity of Saskatchewan agriculture, and the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture has assisted in a movement for the general improvement of all classes of live stock in the Province, with a success which is truly amazing. At the International Live Stock Show at Chicago in the fall of 1920, the leading live stock exhibitions on the continent, the live stock exhibit from the Province of Saskatchewan won thirty-two championships and prizes. This included the grand champion Clydesdale stallion of the show, and the senior champion Clydesdale stallion, Wee Donald, owned by C. A. Weaver, of Lloydminster; reserve grand champion Clydesdale mare and American bred champion Clydesdale mare, Lady Bruce of Lumsden, owned by the University of Saskatchewan; the same mare was also awarded the reserve senior championship and second prize for aged Clydesdale mares. The champion grade Shorthorn steer of the show, the second prize aged Percheron stallion, the first prize Belgian foal, were also among the long list of winnings by Saskatchewan live stock, which swept the board with Clydesdales and made a remarkably good showing in every class in which this Province exhibited.

Without the hard, persistent work of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the close co-operation between the department and the various live stock associations of the Province, coupled with the enterprise and enthusiasm of the horse and cattle breeders of the Province, this magnificent record would have been impossible. The Province is not resting upon its laurels and the Department of Agriculture and the live stock associations are already arranging with the breeders of the Province for another larger exhibit to be sent this year to Chicago and Toronto, the department paying all transportation charges as was done last year.

SUPPLYING LIVE STOCK TO FARMERS

Under The Live Stock Purchase and Sale Act, the Government buys grade cattle, sheep and hogs, for cash, and sells them on credit terms to farmers. Pure bred sires of the various breeds are supplied in the same way. Expert buyers are sent to Eastern Canada to purchase high class dairy cows and heifers for resale on easy terms to dairy farmers. In 1919 when feed was so scarce over a large area of the Province that farmers in the districts affected were forced to sacrifice some of their live stock, the Live Stock Branch purchased young cows and heifers for cash in carload lots and resold the stock thus purchased on credit terms to farmers in other parts of the Province where there was plenty of feed.

The farmer whom The Live Stock Purchase and Sale Act wishes to help is not the man who is well established in stock raising, but the man who is anxious to make a start but has not sufficient capital, and for this reason the department supplies only grade heifers and pure bred bulls, as in this way it is made much easier to make a start with live stock and by the use of pure bred sires herds may be quickly improved. There are eight options offered to purchasers so as to meet the financial standing of all, special options being offered to returned soldiers for the purchase of pure bred sires and grade females.

This service is each year giving better results. In 1920 there were twelve carloads of dairy cattle brought into the Province from Eastern Canada by the Live Stock Branch for resale to dairy farmers on easy terms. Since the work began, there has been a total of 943 pure bred bulls sold to farmers, 68 pure bred cows, 7,384 grade cows and heifers, 81 pure bred ewes, 16,169 grade ewes, 4,327 pure bred rams, 607 grade sows and 2 pure bred sows and 38 pure bred boars.

This is only one phase of the Live Stock Branch which administers several important Acts placed upon the statute books by the Government to assist in every way the live stock industry in the Province.

Under The Horse Breeders' Act, stallions are inspected and granted certificates by experienced examiners and enrolled for service. In 1920 the number of stallions enrolled was 2,032 and 1,224 were examined.

The Brand Act is also administered by this branch and during last year (1920) 2,337 brands were allotted together with 481 renewals.

An expert veterinary surgeon is maintained to assist in controlling outbreaks of diseases of live stock not dealt with by the Dominion Government. The department also supplies vaccine practically at cost to farmers applying for the same and in 1919-20, 62,000 doses of Blackleg remedies, and 56,247 doses of Hemorrhagic-Septicemia vaccine was supplied.

During the winter of 1918-1919 it was found necessary to take steps to assist farmers, who, owing to drought, were unable to procure feed for their stock, and an arrangement was entered into with the Dominion Government and railway companies to each bear an equal amount of the cost of transportation of live stock, haying outfits and feed from those parts of the Province which had suffered from drought to other parts where feed could be obtained at a reasonable rate. To the Live Stock Branch was entrusted the administration of this work which cost the Government \$150,000 for their share of the expenses. A total of 11,024 cars of hay and straw was shipped into the dried out part of the Province, and 854 haying outfits and 120 carloads of cattle were shipped to other parts where feed was more plentiful.

THE DAIRY BRANCH

The Dairy Branch of the department is endeavouring to promote in every way possible the dairying industry in Saskatchewan, by a general improvement in the quality of the product as well as an increase in the quantity produced, with exceedingly encouraging results. In 1920, despite the fact that there was a decrease in the number of cows in the Province due to the great shortage of feed in 1919, there was an increase of 41,000 pounds in the creamery output over the previous year. It is a comparatively brief period since the Province was importing butter by the carload but the tide has turned, and, for the past few years it has been exporting by the trainload Government graded creamery butter which commands a high price on both eastern and western markets. The total creamery output for 1920 for the Province was over 6,600,000 pounds and the total value of dairy products for 1920 was estimated as over \$23,000,000, an increase of \$500,000 over the previous year.

FIELD CROPS BRANCH

The Field Crops Branch, in addition to encouraging the best methods of tillage and cropping methods to control noxious weeds, and superintending campaigns to control outbreaks of insects injurious to the crops, devotes much attention to the improvement of the seed grain sown in the Province and as part of this work prepares exhibits of Saskatchewan agricultural products for international exhibits. Saskatchewan farmers

have well upheld the reputation of the Province as the leading wheat growing Province of Canada and the centre of the world's best wheat growing district. Eight times in the past nine years Saskatchewan farmers have won the world's sweepstakes for the best wheat, as well as many first prizes and championships for other cereals, vegetables and grasses.

In 1916, Saskatchewan farmers won at International Exhibitions 44 prizes and 33 sweepstakes; 31 prizes and 2 sweepstakes in 1917; 12 prizes and 1 sweepstake in 1918; 48 prizes and 3 sweepstakes in 1919; and twelve prizes and 1 sweepstake in 1920, when only one International Soil and Products Exhibition was held.

CO-OPERATION AND MARKETS BRANCH

The Co-operation and Markets Branch assists in the organisation of co-operative associations, devoting special attention to Co-operative Live Stock Marketing; assists the various Agricultural Societies of the Province in planning and conducting co-operative horse sales; assists in the campaign to raise the standard of eggs marketed in the Province and in the co-operative sale of poultry; and works in the closest co-operation with the various co-operative societies in all their activities.

STATISTICS BRANCH

The Statistics Branch reports crop conditions, institutes inquiries regarding farming practices with a view to securing authoritative data; compiles general statistics, and conducts a mailing bureau for the distribution of agricultural publications prepared by the Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture.

GAME BRANCH

The Chief Game Guardian seeks to preserve the wild life of the Province, with the co-operation of local game guardians. The importance of preserving our wild birds is featured in the educational work carried on, moving pictures and lantern slide lectures proving especially effective in interesting school children; and good sportsmen in all parts of the Province are giving enthusiastic support to the reasonable game laws of the Province.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to the work briefly outlined, the Department of Agriculture organises and pays grants to Agricultural Societies; pays scholarships to Domestic Science students from Saskatchewan attending eastern institutions; co-operates with the University of Saskatchewan and railway companies in operating Better Farming Trains, Agricultural Instruction and Dairy Cars; instructs non-English speaking settlers in farming practice through their own press, and watches over and seeks to further the interests of Saskatchewan farmers through ever changing conditions from year to year.

SASKATCHEWAN FARM LOANS BOARD

Seven and a quarter million dollars have been loaned to the farmers of Saskatchewan by the Farm Loans Board up to April 1, 1921, since it started operations in the fall of 1917. Based upon the policy of securing from the people of the Province who have savings to invest, the money to loan to farmers of the Province who desire to borrow on first mortgage for productive and improvement purposes, the scheme has proved of the highest value to the agricultural industry. Not only have a large number of farmers secured loans at a reasonable rate of interest and on long terms of repayment but the rate of interest on all farm loans in the Province has been kept at a moderate figure. When prices of other commodities were advancing by leaps and bounds, when interest rates of government and municipal securities were all going up, practically the only thing that did not go up was the interest rate on farm loans in Saskatchewan.

Before the present scheme was put into effect by the present Government, the whole question of agricultural credits had been thoroughly studied by a commission of which Hon. C. A. Dunning, then general manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., Ltd., and now Provincial Treasurer, was a member, and the plan adopted had received the hearty and unanimous approval of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association at their annual convention.

The opening campaign for the sale of Saskatchewan Farm Loan Debentures had just been started in 1917 when, at the request of the Federal Minister of Finance, Sir Thomas White, the campaign was withdrawn so as not to interfere with the first Victory Loan campaign. As succeeding Victory Loan campaigns were floated, Saskatchewan subscribing liberally to each loan, it was not thought advisable to put on any active campaign again until the fall of 1920. The collapse of the wheat market just at the time that the campaign was launched, made it much more difficult than it would have been under normal conditions to secure in Saskatchewan the money to finance the farmers of the Province, but the sale has been going steadily on and debentures of the new thirty year issue to the value of between \$600,000 and \$700,000 have already been sold. It has been found entirely out of the question to meet all the demands on the board for loans, as not more than a third of the applications can be granted, but it has been considered advisable to keep the interest rate at the present figure and to maintain all the other favourable features of the Saskatchewan Farm Loans system. As financial conditions come back to normal the task of securing funds should not be so serious a problem.

At the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' convention in February, 1921, Hon. C. A. Dunning dealt with the entire question of farm loans and short term credits and stated that when the Farm Loans Board was appointed and the system put into force, that he considered it ought to be possible

to finance such a scheme by paying a higher rate to the people than they could get at the savings bank, to loan money to farmers at a lower rate than they could get it elsewhere. He was right so far as the borrowing was concerned; he was wrong in estimating the relationship between those willing to lend and those wanting to borrow although he had been able to secure, by various expedients, money for the Farm Loan Board to the extent of over six and a half million dollars, which had been loaned to farmers in the Province at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. He again emphasised the fact that every rural credit scheme in force today is based on a multitude of small investors and the Farm Loans Board in this Province, while it has done wonders in the short time it has been established, cannot begin to fill the field opening out for it until a very much larger number of the homes in Saskatchewan have one or more Saskatchewan Farm Loan Debentures.

The Farm Loans Board consists of three men, who are entrusted with the administration. All loans are made on the amortisation plan for a period of thirty years, but provision is made so that the borrower may pay off the loan at any time.

The purpose of The Saskatchewan Farm Loans Act is not to encourage farmers to mortgage their land, but simply to assist those who have been compelled to do so to spread out their present burdens so that they can be more easily borne, and to assist new settlers to make the necessary improvements on their land when they are unable to do so without raising a loan on the security of their land. Farming is an uncertain business, with the yield and the money return fluctuating widely from year to year, and a long term loan with a small annual payment which includes both capital and interest, is found much less burdensome than a short term loan, with its higher rate of interest and the possibility of the entire principal coming due in a year of poor crops or low prices or both.

It has also never been the object of the Government to take over all the farm loan business in Saskatchewan, but to act as a levelling and steady-ing influence on the loan business such as the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company has proved in the grain business and there is every indication that this hope is being realised.

It is the intention of the Provincial Treasurer to make the municipal office of every town, village and rural municipality in the Province, a permanent depositary for the savings of the people in that municipality to be invested in Saskatchewan Farm Loan Debentures so that the agricultural industry of the Province will no longer be hampered by lack of working capital. He regards it as of the utmost importance that the people of Saskatchewan should rely more and more upon their own savings and earnings to finance the development of the Province.

All industrial and commercial development in Saskatchewan depends upon agriculture, and the Government feels that it is essential for the general welfare that the farmer who has the land, the experience and the ability, should be furnished with the means for extending his operations. While the Farm Loans Board has been able to supply only seven and a quarter million dollars in three and a half years where it could have loaned over twenty millions, a good beginning has been made and many millions of dollars have already been saved to the farmers of the Province through the establishment of this board.

GOVERNMENT RELIEF MEASURES

A succession of unusually dry seasons culminating in the exceptionally hot and dry summer of 1919, caused serious crop failures over a wide section in the southerly part of the Province, the problem of relief proving too heavy for the municipal authorities and the Provincial Government at once stepped into the breach. During the fall and winter of 1919-20, a total of 15,450 families were given direct aid in the form of fuel, seed and feed, or by the payment of fodder or hay outfits at a cost to the Provincial Government of \$298,000, and the total guaranteed credit given by the Province to banks for rural municipalities and mortgagees to enable them to supply the food and fuel, seed grain, and fodder for animals, amounted to \$3,197,000 or a grand total of \$3,495,000.

In these very large expenditures it was stated by the Provincial Treasurer that the Government of Saskatchewan, acting as trustee for the people of the Province, had no apologies to offer for drawing upon the credit of the Province to relieve the distress of the settlers, who through no fault of their own, faced an exceptionally hard winter during 1919-20, without feed or fuel for their home, or feed for their starving animals.

These expenditures and obligations were entered into by the Government to enable the people affected to carry on, and with the firm conviction that the self-reliance and independence of Saskatchewan citizens would be manifested by the prompt clearing up of these obligations as soon as circumstances permitted. The Government is relying upon the cordial co-operation of those receiving assistance to "wipe off the slate" as soon as they are in a position to do so, and to leave the Government's hands free to deal with any conditions which may arise in the future.

A fair average crop in most sections and a bountiful harvest in some portions of the district most seriously affected by three successive crop failures was reaped in 1920 and proves the wisdom as well as the humanity of the policy adopted by the Government in the timely assistance given to its citizens.

GUARANTEED CREDITS GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT

(1) To banks for rural municipalities:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Food and fuel | \$ 305,000 |
| Fodder | 1,853,000 |
| Seed Grain | 275,000 |

Total guaranteed credits given for rural municipalities \$2,433,000

(2) To mortgagees to enable them to supply seed grain 694,000

(3) To banks for Local Improvement Districts—Seed and feed 70,000

Total of Government guaranteed credits \$3,197,000

DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY GOVERNMENT

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Transporting haying outfits and fodder free of freight charges, Government's share..... | \$ 150,000 |
| In unorganised territory: Food, fuel and fodder..... | 148,000 |
| Total direct expenditure..... | <u>\$ 298,000</u> |
| Total guarantees..... | \$3,197,000 |
| Total direct expenditures..... | <u>298,000</u> |
| Grand Total all relief measures | <u>\$3,495,000</u> |

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The people of Saskatchewan may well be proud of what has been accomplished along educational lines since the establishment of the Province on September 10, 1905. Beginning with only 894 school districts, dotted here and there over the Province; with no secondary schools, only one normal school, without a university; the Province has now almost 4,500 school districts, 24 high schools and collegiate institutes, with upwards of 200 elementary schools doing high school work, two normal schools, and a Provincial university with an enrolment this year of over 1,100 students.

The progress made has been due not only to the policy of a government which has given first place to education, and to the efforts of the Department of Education through its various officials, with the assistance of the councils of the rural municipalities, but to the hearty co-operation of the people in the various sections of the Province, and their desire to give their children the advantages of a good education.

In discussing the educational system of the Province and dealing with its problems, it must be borne in mind that Saskatchewan is more truly rural than any province in the Dominion, or any state in the American Union. Of the 4,400 school districts in the Province on December 31, 1920, all but 78 were rural or village districts. The schools in the larger towns and cities are as well administered and the teachers are as well qualified and as efficient as they are in any part of Canada. In rural districts and in many of the village districts where the population is sparse, distances great, the roads not always good and boarding accommodation limited, the attendance is apt to be irregular, frequent changes of teachers occur, schools are not in operation throughout the year, and there is much hard work yet to be done by the Government, the department, the school trustees and the people of the Province, before all the schools of the Province measure up to the standard which it is hoped they will ultimately reach.

THE AIM OF THE DEPARTMENT

It has been the aim of the Government to see that every child in the Province secures at least a good common school education and that those who wish it are enabled to pursue a high school course. To this end every effort has been made to place a school within a reasonable distance from every child, boards of trustees are encouraged to operate yearly schools with qualified teachers in charge, regular attendance is required on the part of children of school age, and the teaching of high school work in urban centres where high schools have not been established, is encouraged by liberal grants.

Out of the 894 school districts in Saskatchewan when the Province was established, 885 were public school districts and 9 were separate

school districts, 2 of which were Protestant separate school districts. On December 31, 1920, out of 4,399 school districts, 4,378 were public school districts and 21 separate school districts, 4 of which were Protestant separate school districts. Saskatchewan has established almost as many school districts as Alberta and Manitoba combined.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The enrolment in all the schools of the Province in 1905 was 25,191, and of these 620 were doing high school work. In 1919 the total enrolment had grown to 164,219, with 9,000 enrolled in the high school grades.

While the increase in the enrolment in the schools of the Province has been most gratifying, reports from teachers and inspectors revealed the fact that the attendance of pupils had for many years been very irregular. Investigation proved that the compulsory clauses of The School Act which had been on the statute books for many years and which placed upon the boards of trustees the duty of compelling regular attendance of pupils, were in too many cases a dead letter, and thousands of boys and girls had left school without a good common school education.

In 1917 The School Attendance Act was passed by the Legislature. Under this Act, all children over seven and under fourteen years of age, are required to attend the school of the district in which they reside for the whole period during which the school is in operation each year. At the time the Act was passed—the third year of the war—there was a very serious shortage of labour and a clause was inserted giving boards of trustees the power to exempt from attendance at school any child over thirteen years of age whose services were required in husbandry or for urgent or necessary household duties. Under an amendment to this clause which was passed at the close of the war, boards of trustees were empowered to exempt a pupil from school only if the pupil was at least thirteen years of age and had passed grade V of the public school course of study, and for a period not exceeding thirty teaching days in any year.

The enrolment of pupils in the elementary schools of the Province grew from 125,590 in 1916 to 138,731 in 1917, 147,232 in 1918, and 159,468 in 1919.

The School Attendance Act has been administered with due regard to conditions existing in the Province and with as little hardship as possible. The total number of cases sent to the Provincial Attendance Officers since the Act came into effect up to the end of 1920 amounted to 9,142, and fines were imposed for a total of 5,704 cases.

A recent amendment to The School Act provides that in every school district where at least 10 children between the ages of seven and fourteen reside within the district, the school must be in operation at least 200 teaching days. Given a compulsory attendance law strictly administered, and yearly schools with qualified teachers in charge, a tremendous improvement in the school system of the Province can be brought about.

SUPPLY OF TEACHERS

To obtain each year an adequate supply of qualified teachers is perhaps the most serious problem that confronts the department. During the past sixteen years licenses have been granted to over 16,000 teachers—about half of whom were trained in normal schools in Saskatchewan. This number should have been quite adequate to supply the demand, but the records show that the department was compelled to issue an average of over 700 provisional certificates or "permits" each year for periods varying from two to eight months, to keep the schools in operation. The causes of this shortage are principally the great demand for help

in other lines of work and the fact that many of the women teachers marry.

This shortage of teachers, unfortunately, bears most heavily on the rural school districts, where living conditions often do not compare favourably with those in the urban centres and where employment is not so steady all the year round although the rate of salary is often higher than that paid in towns. The legislation to provide for yearly schools and compulsory attendance which is now in effect will have a far-reaching effect upon the elementary schools, and should stop to some extent the exodus from the teaching ranks.

The decline in the number of teachers coming to Saskatchewan from other Provinces has given the Department of Education another problem which is being successfully solved. In 1906, 66 per cent. of the new teachers granted regular licenses, came from other provinces. In 1919 this percentage was reduced to 34, which meant that the Saskatchewan Normal Schools provided the other 66 per cent. It is apparent that the Province must depend more and more upon its own training schools for its supply of teachers. Through the courtesy of the Public School Board of the city of Saskatoon, the Normal School classes at that point were for several years accommodated in one of the public schools. The new normal school at present in the course of erection in the city of Saskatoon will provide adequate accommodation for the teachers in training in the northern part of the Province.

Under the new regulations all persons applying for admission to the Normal School must hold at least Second Class academic standing and the Normal School course has been extended to cover a period of 33 weeks. This provision will ensure a better qualified class of teachers for the schools of the Province.

TEACHERS' EXCHANGE

In order to enable boards of trustees to get into communication with qualified teachers, a Teachers' Exchange employment bureau was established as a branch of the Department of Education in 1917. Up to that time teachers leaving the Provincial Normal schools or coming to Saskatchewan from other provinces, were under the necessity of engaging the services of private agencies in order to obtain schools and had to pay a commission for such service. The Teachers' Exchange gives its services free of charge to teachers and boards of trustees, and has proved a real service.

HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE

Several years ago, with a view to relating the work in the schools of the Province more closely to the actual needs of the community, the subject of household science was added to the school curriculum, and the teaching of sewing and cooking is now encouraged in both elementary and secondary schools. The Provincial Director of Household Science is now assisted in the field by six assistants, and a household science teacher is employed on the staff of the Normal school at Regina and Saskatoon. The Household Science branch of the Department of Education is encouraging the boards of trustees to provide a hot noon lunch for children who are compelled to remain at school during the noon period. In addition to this, short courses in household science are held at centres of the Province and instruction given in cooking, canning of fruits and vegetables, and in sewing to the senior pupils of the school, while afternoon and evening classes are held for older girls and mothers.

SCHOOL GRANTS

At the 1920-21 session of the Legislature a new School Grants Act was passed which marks a decided advance in the measure of Provincial financial support for elementary education. The Supplementary Revenue Tax which has provided rural and secondary schools with a considerable revenue since 1907 was abolished, and the grants to rural schools under the new Grants Act was increased to beyond the maximum amount paid in the previous year under The School Grants Act and The Supplementary Revenue Act combined. Village and town schools having less than six departments will draw a grant under the new law, double that paid under the old law, while the grant payable for a department devoted exclusively to pupils above Grade VII, has been increased from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per day.

The grant clauses of the new School Grants Act are as follows:

To every rural school district:

(a) The sum of one dollar and fifty cents for every teaching day upon which the school of the district is legally open:

(b) An additional sum of sixty cents for every teaching day upon which the school is open during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December in which it is first in operation, and forty cents for the second year.

To Town Districts

To every town district the sum of one dollar and fifty cents for every teaching day upon which the school of the district is legally open:

Provided that if the district maintains in operation in any term or part thereof between six and ten rooms inclusive the rate of grant per teaching day shall be one dollar and thirty cents; if between eleven rooms and twenty-five rooms inclusive, the rate shall be one dollar and ten cents, and if more than twenty-five rooms the rate shall be ninety cents.

For Continuation Classes

To every district in which there is maintained a school exclusively for pupils above Grade VII, the sum of three dollars per teaching day, subject to the following conditions:

(a) That the average attendance of pupils in such school is at least fifteen;

(b) That the equipment provided, the classification of pupils and the instruction given are satisfactory to the department;

(c) That a high school or collegiate institute is not in operation within the district.

In addition to the above grants the following special grants are payable:

(a) To every district making proper provision for the noon lunch, a grant of fifty per cent. of the initial cost of approved equipment, such grant not to exceed thirty dollars;

(b) To every district providing the minimum equipment for instruction in elementary science as prescribed for the first year of the high school course a grant of fifty per cent. of the initial cost of such equipment, such grant not to exceed twenty-five dollars; to every town district providing the minimum equipment for instruction in elementary science as prescribed for the first and second year of the high school course and in physics and chemistry as prescribed for the third year of the high school course, a grant of fifty per cent. of the initial cost of such equipment, such grant not to exceed one hundred dollars.

(c) To every district that provides conveyance as required by sections 207 and 209 of The School Act, a sum to be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council but not to exceed one-third of the actual cost of such conveyance as shown by proper vouchers therefor;

(d) To every district maintaining a night school as provided for in section 183 of The School Act, the sum of two dollars per evening session for each teacher employed.

The grants now paid in support of elementary education by the Department of Education for Saskatchewan are far more substantial and generous than those paid in any other province of the Dominion, and testify to the importance placed upon this public service by the Government. Saskatchewan has through its Legislative Assembly given evidence of its approval of the paramount importance of the education of the children of the Province in the most practical way, by adequate financial support from Provincial funds.

GRANTS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The substantial financial support provided by the Government for the high schools and collegiate institutes of Saskatchewan is also without a parallel in Canada. With the repeal of The Supplementary Revenue Act which provides that 10 per cent. of the funds collected under this Act should be assigned to secondary schools, it became necessary to increase the grant per diem per teacher and this has been placed at \$4.00. At this rate a high school room will be able to earn in 1921 more than the maximum amount from all sources earned in previous years. In addition, in order to reimburse partly from Provincial funds high school districts that provide for the education of nonresident pupils, a new grant has been added of 15 cents per diem for each nonresident pupil in actual attendance. The maximum grant under this clause is \$30 per annum per pupil.

SCHOOL FINANCES

A most important advance has been made since the establishment of the Province in the manner of raising funds for the operation of schools in rural and village districts. In the early days, all taxes were levied and collected by the various school boards. Since the establishment of the rural municipalities all school taxes are levied by the municipal councils upon requisition from the school boards and in village and rural districts are payable to the school boards at the end of each quarter.

In 1906 the various school districts of the Province expended \$1,448,-914.69. In 1919 the amount expended was \$11,433,258.46. For teachers' salaries in 1906 the amount expended was \$471,745.65, while in 1917 the amount expended for salaries was \$4,813,000.42. This amount is almost a million dollars more than was paid in 1918 for teachers' salaries. Average salaries for all classes of teachers have almost doubled since 1906. The average salaries in 1906 ranged from \$592.40 for Third Class female teachers to \$777.24 for First Class male teachers, and in 1919 from \$1,019.82 for Third Class female teachers to \$1,456.11 for First Class male teachers.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS

In 1905 five inspectors were employed in that part of the North West Territories that now comprises the Province of Saskatchewan. As the number of school districts increased, more and more inspectors were necessary, until now forty-six inspectors, including an inspector of secondary schools are employed by the department. Their work is most arduous at all times. They are the department's representatives in their

respective fields and are expected not only to inspect the schools in their divisions but to keep in touch with conditions in their districts and advise boards of trustees respecting various matters in connection with their schools. In the winter months they are called upon to assist in Normal school work. No province in Canada can boast of a more faithful or more loyal staff than Saskatchewan.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS

The Saskatchewan Act, passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1905 to create the Province of Saskatchewan, provides for the organisation of separate schools by the minority in any school district, either Catholic or Protestant. This provision in our constitution is a continuation of the privileges which were in force in the earliest territorial days and can now be taken away only by the British Parliament. Neither the Provincial Government nor the Dominion Government has any power to alter our constitution in so far as this privilege is concerned. There are 21 separate school districts in the Province, 4 Protestant and 17 Catholic as compared with 9 in 1906, of which 2 were Protestant and 7 Catholic.

NIGHT SCHOOLS

In an effort to overcome the illiteracy that prevails in many settlements, and to encourage the ambitious students of all ages that have lacked educational advantages, night schools have been encouraged. In the winter of 1918-19 there were but six night schools with a total enrolment of 150 in the Province. The Government set aside a grant of one dollar per evening session and in the winter of 1919-20 there were 38 night schools in operation with an enrolment of 666. The grant was then raised to \$2.00 per evening session—the highest paid for similar work in any Canadian province—and upwards of 100 night schools with 1,500 to 2,000 pupils enrolled were in operation the winter of 1920-21.

TEACHERS' RESIDENCES

Rural trustees have been quick to see that a comfortable teacher's residence, furnished at the expense of the district, goes a long way towards solving the teacher problem. During the year 1920 about 100 teachers' houses were built or remodelled. A grant of one-third of the cost of the teacher's house, up to \$400, is paid by the Government to districts requiring assistance.

FREE SCHOOL READERS

The Provincial Government, through the Department of Education, provides school readers free to the schools of the Province. Under the regulations governing the distribution of these readers, every child in the elementary school receives a reader corresponding to his grade, and this reader becomes the property of the pupil. New readers corresponding to his or her grades are received as the pupils are promoted from year to year.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE WAR

It is a matter of pride to record that at the outbreak of the war practically every physically fit male teacher joined the colours. In addition, hundreds of students from the secondary schools and the university enlisted for active service. The school children of the Province, under the guidance of their teachers, raised the splendid sum of \$141,214.51 for

patriotic purposes during the war. These contributions were grouped as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Canadian Children's Patriotic Fund..... | \$27,138.73 |
| Belgian Children's Relief Fund..... | 67,434.28 |
| Schools' Red Cross Society..... | 19,641.50 |

SCHOOL HYGIENE

Saskatchewan has been well to the front in the recent awakening to the importance of the conservation of the health of her children. The progress of thousands of boys and girls in school is retarded because of minor physical defects which can be easily removed. With this in view, the department appointed a Director of School Hygiene in 1917 and each year since then has added qualified school nurses to the staff until now eleven nurses are employed in the field. They visit the rural schools, look after the sanitary arrangements of the schools, inspect the children and report to the parents any physical defects they find, with the suggestion that the family physician or the dentist be consulted with a view to having these defects removed. In thousands of cases medical or dental treatment has followed the inspection of the pupils by the school nurse.

CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS

There are now in the Province thirty-eight large or consolidated school districts. There are thousands of boys and girls living in far corners of school districts who cannot attend school regularly on account of the distance. If the conveyance of children to school under the consolidated plan will overcome this difficulty, then there would be almost ideal conditions in our schools. Every child in the district could reach the school, regular attendance would be ensured, the circle of acquaintance of the pupils greatly enlarged with consequent improvement of the community life. A better grading of pupils can be arranged and better and more permanent teachers obtained. The only serious objection to this kind of school organisation is the expense of operation. In populous districts where reasonably good roads exist, this form of co-operative effort will doubtless become more popular as time goes on.

CHANGES IN THE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

During the past few years several very important changes have been made in the high school curriculum. Household science has been placed on the course and girls may select this instead of one of the other science options. Hygiene has been added to the course and students who are qualified for admission to the normal schools are given a complete course and are required to pass an examination in this subject.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Under an arrangement with the Dominion Government, vocational courses in commercial work, home economics, industrial work and agriculture have been added to the high school courses. This will enable boys and girls to take a course apart from the teachers' or the matriculation course.

PLANS OF SCHOOL HOUSES

Many school buildings, particularly those in the rural districts, erected during the early history of the Province, are entirely unsatisfactory, being poorly lighted, poorly equipped and badly heated and ventilated. For the past five years the Department of Education, with the co-operation of the

Department of Public Works, through the Provincial Architect, has been preparing plans and specifications for school buildings in rural and village districts. These are provided free to school boards and boards of trustees are encouraged to consult the Provincial Architect before embarking upon any building operations.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Under The Secondary Education Act, which was passed in 1907, twenty-four high school districts have been established. In 1919 the total enrolment in these schools was 4,751 and the number of teachers employed, 164. In the towns and villages of the Province where high schools have not been established the number of pupils in the high school grades is greatly increased. The report for 1919 indicates that there are almost as many pupils enrolled in the senior departments of the elementary schools in the towns and villages of the Province as there are in the high schools and collegiate institutes. The enrolment for that year is as follows:

| | First and second year | Third year | Fourth year | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| High schools..... | 3,005 | 1,207 | 539 | 4,751 |
| Elementary schools..... | 3,329 | 810 | 110 | 4,249 |
| Total..... | | | | 9,000 |

The establishment of high schools in centres where secondary schools have not been formed has given the people of the Province the means of giving their children a high school education without being compelled to send them away to the large centres.

For the encouragement of high school work in urban centres, a special grant of \$3.00 per day is paid for every department devoted exclusively to pupils above Grade VII. The regular grant of \$1.50 per day is paid as well, so that any district establishing such a department will receive for the entire year of 210 teaching days, the sum of \$4.50 per day, or a total grant of \$945 for such department per year. This special grant is payable only in districts where high schools or collegiate institutes are not in operation, and only if the average attendance of at least fifteen pupils is maintained, and the equipment provided, the classification of pupils and the instruction given are satisfactory to the department. School boards in such districts are empowered to impose a fee of \$15 a year for each resident and \$30 a year for each nonresident pupil in attendance at that class. In a class of twenty pupils, ten of whom are nonresidents, the amount of grant payable would be \$945. The fees collectible would be \$150 for the resident and \$300 for the nonresident pupils, making a total of \$1,395 for such department. A great increase in the number of pupils taking high school work in the urban centres of the Province may be expected.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Another important change in The School Act passed at the 1917 session of the Legislature gives the wives of the ratepayers, whether resident or nonresident, the same voting privileges as their husbands in school matters so that women now have the privilege of serving on the boards of trustees. This cannot but have a good effect. The women of this country have always been active in all kinds of good work and the department is quite sure that in this field their influence will be felt. Out of 6,386 teachers employed in 1919, 5,117 were women.

THE UNIVERSITY

If a resident of Saskatchewan should be asked to point to the Provincial institution of which he is most proud, it is altogether likely that he will point to the University of Saskatchewan. Beginning in the year 1909-10 with a modest enrolment of 70 students, the institution has now grown until in the year 1919-20 there were 1,447 students, and in addition to this, the influence, the teaching and the results achieved by the University and the College of Agriculture, are conveyed by means of special short courses, travelling lectures and extension work to over 150,000 of our people in each year, in all parts of the Province.

The University conducts courses and grants degrees in Arts, Engineering, Law, Pharmacy, Agriculture and Accounting, and also conducts the examinations required by the following professional societies: Accounting, Architectural, Dental, Medical, Pharmaceutical, Veterinary, Registered Nurses and Drugless Practitioners.

In every year but one since the University was founded the number of students shows a steady progression, and such progress is indeed wonderful, when it is remembered that for a period comprising almost half of the life of the institution, the country was plunged into the greatest war in history. The effect of war upon all institutions of learning is simply disastrous, and its effect upon the University of Saskatchewan may be illustrated by a report of the president, in which he pointed out that in 1918 there were only three graduates in engineering on account of the fact that the professors and students had all enlisted. During the war about 370 students and graduates enlisted, of whom 66 lost their lives, and 35 were decorated or mentioned in despatches.

SASKATCHEWAN TEMPERANCE ACT

The record of the Saskatchewan Government on temperance reform has been clear and consistent. Step by step the wish of the majority of the people of the Province as expressed at the polls, that the sale of liquor as a beverage should be curtailed or discontinued, has been carried out by the Government of the Province. As the need has arisen, changes have been made in temperance legislation, and the present Saskatchewan Temperance Act has been framed to carry out as far as it is humanly possible, the desire of the majority of the men and women of the Province that liquor should not hereafter be sold in the Province except for medicinal, scientific, manufacturing and sacramental purposes.

From 1892 until 1908, Saskatchewan had a system of wide open bars to which every one had access in cities, towns, villages and what were called rural localities, from early morning until 11.30 at night. Local option according to municipalities was introduced in 1908 and at the same time the hours of the opening and closing of the bars were shortened, the number of licensed places were reduced and various other restrictive measures were passed. This system continued until 1915 when the Honourable Walter Scott, then Premier of the Province, announced that the time had arrived when the bars and the wholesale liquor houses had to go. The Legislature was convened and the Act passed by virtue of which, on June 30, 1915, every bar as well as every wholesale liquor house in the Province, was closed. Under The Sales of Liquor Act a system of Government stores was introduced and provision made for a plebiscite whereby the people could vote on the question of continuing or closing the Government stores. By an overwhelming majority of four to one in December, 1916, the people expressed themselves in favour of stopping the sale of liquor as a beverage in Saskatchewan.

From January 1, 1917, to April 1, 1918, the sale of liquor in Saskatchewan was prohibited except for medicinal, scientific, manufacturing and sacramental purposes, but during the period the Province could not prevent the importation of liquor for beverage purposes into the Province from outside. While local prohibition prevailed within Saskatchewan, liquor could nevertheless be obtained as a beverage with practically no restriction, on account of the importation being permitted under federal authority from outside of the Province. By an order in council under the provisions of The War Measures Act, the Dominion Government for a time prohibited the importation of liquor into one province from another province, but this order was rescinded and from January 1, 1920, until February 1, 1921, it was again possible for individuals to import into the Province from other provinces or from outside Canada, liquor for beverage purposes. A resolution was passed unanimously by the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly at the 1919-20 session, requesting that the votes of the electors of the Province be taken for or against the

importation of intoxicating liquor into Saskatchewan. The Government of Canada, issued a proclamation appointing October 25th as the day on which the poll for taking the votes of the electors for and against the prohibition of liquor should be taken. The majority was in favour of prohibition and the Dominion Government passed the order in council which came into force on February 1, 1921.

On December 15, 1920, after a great deal of mature and earnest consideration, The Saskatchewan Temperance Act (Chapter 23 of 1917) was repealed and was superseded by The Saskatchewan Temperance Act, Chapter 194 of the Revised Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1920. The policy of the Government in passing the existing law was to disassociate itself from the administration of the Act, which was placed in the hands of a commission, composed of three members: R. E. A. Leech, Chairman; A. G. Hawkes and W. J. Bell. The head office of the commission is in Regina where the chairman and Mr. Hawkes, with Mr. J. W. Stewart as secretary are located. The branch office for Northern Saskatchewan is in Saskatoon and is operated under the immediate direction of Mr. W. J. Bell.

In the administration of the Act, one of the first duties of the commission is to issue to physicians and druggists, after careful investigation, permits authorising them to sell certain liquors for medicinal purposes. The commission as a whole decides upon the cancellations and suspensions of permits, upon action with reference to physicians who have issued prescriptions for liquor in such numbers as to be clearly in excess of reasonable requirements and upon the question as to whether liquor which has been seized shall be returned or forfeited. T. D. Brown, K.C., is the legal advisor of the commission and director of prosecutions.

In order to secure satisfactory control over the sale of liquor by permit holders, the commission maintains a staff of inspectors, and so far as possible, every drug store, whether operated by a permit holder or not, is inspected at least every two months and a report of each inspection is submitted to the chairman as chief inspector. From December 15th up to February 15th, as a result of these inspections, six permits have been cancelled and two physicians have been notified that they must not write prescriptions for liquor. It may be noted with satisfaction that throughout the province the number of prescriptions for liquor, written and filled, shows a steady and marked decrease from the figures prior to the coming into force of the new Act, and the commission gratefully acknowledges its appreciation of the assistance which it has received from medical men and from druggists generally in the enforcement of the Act.

All liquors required for use in the practise of their professions by physicians, dentists and druggists, and all liquors for sale for medicinal purposes, must be purchased from one or other of two licensed Provincial wholesalers. The members of these professions are supplied with order books from which orders for all liquors required are forwarded in duplicate to the commission. Each order must first receive the approval of a commissioner and is then sent forward to the wholesaler designated, while if the order is not approved, the applicant is at once notified by mail. All liquors purchased by druggists and others are entered on a stock

sheet kept for each individual in one or other of the commission's offices, and when the monthly returns of sales are received, the totals from these are at once ascertained and entered and a calculation made as to the balance which should be on hand, and the inspectors are thus able to check the actual stock of liquors in a drug store against this stock sheet and so leakages due to any cause whatever become evident at once.

In addition to control over the sale of liquors to doctors, dentists and druggists, the commission also controls sale to the governing boards of hospitals for medicinal purposes, to the authorities of educational institutions for scientific and other purposes, and to manufacturers and others for use in the mechanical arts and for manufacturing and preserving. Religious bodies also obtain wine for sacramental purposes through the commission.

While the Federal laws permit the export of liquor which was in the Province prior to the first day of February, 1921, which can be shipped to the United States or to a province which still allow importation for beverage purposes, The Saskatchewan Temperance Act gives the commission certain definite duties in connection with the checking of the stock of liquor export houses, and the daily returns of sales. Since December 15, 1920, every one of the fifty-four export houses in the Province has been visited at least twice, and the stock of the fourteen which are closed has been checked out by an officer. The liquor houses which are doing legitimate business comply readily with the requirements of the Act and offer no objection to the close check which the commission maintains. The constant visits paid by the enforcement officers to those establishments which have reason to object to their presence have restricted illegal sales and have done much to lessen the menace arising from the presence of these houses in certain localities.

From December 15, 1920, to February 15, 1921, seventy-seven convictions have been recorded for offences against the Act, the total fines imposed exceeding \$14,000. Fifty-eight separate seizures of liquor have been made and the total value of the liquor now declared to be forfeited to the Crown is approximately \$100,000. The majority of the convictions and seizures have resulted from the activity of the Provincial Police who are working in close touch with the officers employed by the commission. Many complaints are received as to conditions existing in various parts of the Province and an investigating officer is always sent out as soon as possible to get in touch with the persons concerned and to report as to what action, if any, should be taken. Absolutely no attention is paid to anonymous communications.

A real beginning has been made in the enforcement of The Saskatchewan Temperance Act. In speaking to the Legislative Assembly when this new Act was given its second reading, Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, then Attorney General for Saskatchewan, explained that in the light of experience it was desirable to set up new machinery. In so far as the administration of the previous Act was concerned, every honest effort had been made by those charged with enforcement. He would not say that with the setting of this new machinery all violations of the law would disappear and Utopia would be attained, but he honestly thought and believed that the setting up of this new machinery would go a long way

towards improving conditions, providing only that the people of the Province would recognise their responsibility and give their moral support in enforcing a measure which would not but prove unpopular to a considerable part of the people of the Province. The commission, although it enjoys the full support of the Saskatchewan Provincial Government, is an independent body and as such is able to deal with the situation with only one end in view, the enforcement of a law which is the expression of the majority of the people of the Province.

HIGHWAYS

In a new province like Saskatchewan, the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges is one of the most difficult as well as one of the most important problems the Government and the people of the Province have to face. Saskatchewan is solving the problem successfully because in this department as in every department of the Government, the co-operation of those most vitally interested, the people of the Province, has been secured. Shortly after assuming office the present Provincial Government, after giving very serious consideration to the whole highways situation, decided to form a separate Highway Department in charge of a minister, to plan out a highway system for the entire Province and to undertake a general improvement of the roads of Saskatchewan along a well-defined policy. From the very first, it was recognised that without the co-operation of the municipal authorities of the Province, no system that could be devised would meet the needs of the people, and from the very first the municipal authorities have given their hearty support to the general plan worked out by the Provincial Department of Highways. With 210,000 miles of roadway in Saskatchewan, and a system of roads already laid out which includes over 32,000 miles, it can hardly be said that much more than a beginning has been made, but a sound highways policy has been inaugurated, with a system so marked out and classified that main market roads are being located so as to link up to form interurban roads from town to town, and when finally completed a transprovincial system embracing the whole Province, will give Saskatchewan a splendid highways service for all the people of the Province.

The Province has been divided into districts with a competent man over each district, and a superintendent of the whole to co-relate all the road work in the entire Province. The department works with the local municipalities, sends trained experts to assist in the location and construction of highways, gives assistance in the way of finance as well as advice, helps municipalities to build the roads under the direction of the department and where this cannot be done to advantage, the work is done by gangs operating under the direction of the department or by contract.

For the maintenance of the roads, under The Highways Act, a grant of \$500 is given for rural municipalities of nine townships, and this sum is expended by the municipalities on roads which are part of the main highway system of the Province. In the fourteen years from 1906 to 1920 inclusive, over \$17,000,000 has been expended upon the highways of the Province, \$4,377,554 of this amount by the present Government. The minister of the department Hon. S. J. Latta, in speaking before the House on the highways policy of the Government made the statement that, since he took charge in 1917, "to his knowledge there had not been one solitary dollar placed in one solitary location in Saskatchewan for any other purpose than for the purpose of carrying out the system designed

for improving the highways of Saskatchewan and carrying out the work as efficiently and economically as possible, and not one dollar had been placed in any constituency or rural municipality for the mere purpose of political effect at the sacrifice of the system the Government is trying to build up." This frank and fearless statement was given wide publicity and its truth has not been challenged in the House or out of it.

LOCATION

In locating a main highway, two main principles are kept in view; the development of a system of highways that will bring the greatest service to the greatest number of the people of the Province, and the furnishing as soon as possible the type of road needed to efficiently carry the traffic that will go over it at the least possible ultimate cost to the public treasury.

TYPE OF ROAD

At the present time a high type gravel road has been decided upon as the proper type for Saskatchewan. Leading authorities in United States and Canada have come to the conclusion that for moderately heavy traffic this is the most economical type of road to construct and to maintain, and the most economical way to prepare for a hard surface road is to properly build and maintain a good earth grade for some years and traffic will fit such a grade to bear surfacing more economically than a grade freshly built.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

The Saskatchewan Provincial Government has a policy in distributing funds for highway construction and maintenance, which is as clearly defined and as accurately carried out as the policy of the Highway Department in locating the system of roads. The first step is the granting of the vote by the Legislature. The House goes into committee and so much money is granted to each class of work. The matter of maintenance and of road drag competition comes before the House and certain sums are laid aside for contingencies such as washouts, repair of bridges, necessary repairs of bridges, and a certain sum is also voted for the purchase of material, reinforcing iron, steel for bridges, cement, timber, etc.

The balance of the total amount voted for highways is distributed in an equitable way throughout the whole Province and for this purpose the constituency is used as the unit. An estimate is made of what may be the demands in each constituency. Consideration is given to the area, then the population, the railway service, the topography of the country, and an estimate of proposed expenditure for each constituency is arrived at. This information is open to every member of the House and to anyone else who desires it. Each member may know what the appropriation is for every constituency. Every member of the Legislature is asked to bear his share of the responsibility resting upon him as to the selection of the locations on which the money will be spent in the district he represents. It is to the credit of the members of the Legislature as well as to the Government, that on the whole the money thus voted has been spent in a judicious and proper manner.

CONTRACTS

The activities of the Department of Highways cover an exceedingly wide field. For the year 1920 there were 780 contracts entered into with the rural municipalities for the construction and improvement of main roads. The total expenditure amounted to \$406,673.15. There

were 469 pieces of work handled by the road gangs employed directly by the department. The expenditure for this amounted to \$423,035.34. There were 267 grants made to rural municipalities for the maintenance of the road system at an expenditure of \$133,485.30. There were two contracts let by public tenders and ten contracts by appointments for small amounts, the total amounting to \$11,250. The road drag competition, which is doing so much to create interest in better roads, is every year becoming more popular and in 1920 there were 154 entries in this competition covering a mileage of 521½.

CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO WITH RURAL MUNICIPALITIES FROM 1917 TO 1920 INCLUSIVE, TOTAL NUMBER FOR EACH YEAR AND EXPENDITURE

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1917-18, 482..... | \$158,284.92 |
| 1918-19, 89..... | 28,160.70 |
| 1919-20, 604..... | 219,822.64 |
| 1920-21, 769..... | 406,673.15 |

BRIDGES

The construction of bridges and the maintenance of ferries are exceedingly important branches of the Department of Highway's activities. In 1920 there were 11 permanent bridges erected of the reinforced concrete arch and beam span type at an expenditure of \$82,536.46; eight pairs of concrete abutments for steel bridges at an expenditure of \$72,087.68; six steel bridges on pile piers built by departmental bridge crews at an expenditure of \$40,675.09; 130 new timber bridges, some of them to replace decayed structures, at a total expenditure of \$95,020.12.

FERRIES

The ferries of the Province are giving an excellent service to the people with a general increase each year in the number of passengers carried and with a remarkable record of transporting from 1912 to 1920 nearly 4,000,000 passengers with no passengers losing their lives by drowning or any other cause by being carried on the ferries, and none injured through mishandling of ferries by ferrymen during that period. No complete records were kept prior to that date. There were over 90,000 automobiles transported in 1920 and over a quarter of a million passengers. There are now 43 ferries in operation, 3 new ferries being established during the season. The total expenditure for this branch of the service for last year alone was \$111,621.93.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Department of Highways also looks after the construction of water reservoirs in localities where local wells are insufficient for a general supply, and nine of these were authorised in the past year at an expenditure of \$2,918.86. There were 453 surveys entered for action in the past season and seven departmental surveyors were employed for the whole of the open season at an expenditure of \$45,051.63. The Highways Department also looks after the various drainage works and good progress was made the past year on the Yellow Grass drain project and the Melaval drain, and it is expected that both of these drainage schemes will be completed in 1921. The expenditure on these amounted to \$44,420.86.

The investigation of a water supply from the South Saskatchewan river for the Moose Jaw-Regina district was given this department and a report of the commission indicates the progress made with this investigation.

A general survey of gravel deposits of the Province is being carried out by the department and samples for the various districts are tested, with very satisfactory results so far.

The department is co-operating with the various automobile clubs and associations in the Province for the erection of sign posts to mark the direction of the main roads.

The following table gives the expenditure on highways since the inauguration of the Province to 1920 inclusive:

EXPENDITURES FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, FERRIES, DAMS, SURVEYS AND OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

From General Revenue:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1906-1911 (inclusive)..... | \$3,664,779.55 |
| 1912-1916 (inclusive)..... | 2,566,384.84 |
| 1917-1920 (inclusive)..... | 2,772,769.48 |
| Total..... | <hr/> \$9,003,933.87 |

From Capital Account (Borrowed money):

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1906-1911 (inclusive)..... | \$1,039,492.90 |
| 1912-1916 (inclusive)..... | 5,496,263.76 |
| 1917-1920 (inclusive)..... | 1,604,785.42 |
| Total..... | <hr/> \$8,140,542.08 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total expenditures 1906 to 1920 (inclusive)..... | \$17,144,475.95 |
| Average expenditure per annum..... | \$1,142,965.06 |

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Municipal Affairs came into being on November 1, 1908. It was the first department of its kind in Canada, Manitoba alone having a bureau for this purpose previously. Alberta and Quebec have since followed in Saskatchewan's footsteps, while Ontario has established a Bureau of Municipal Affairs attached to one of the departments of the government.

The department exercises a general supervision over all municipalities in the Province, giving particular attention to towns, villages and rural municipalities; advises municipal officials and councils on the provisions of the different municipal Acts and the powers and duties of councils; issues and enforces regulations governing the methods of accounting, recording and auditing to be used in towns, villages and rural municipalities; prescribes the books and forms required for the proper carrying out of the said regulations and the provisions of the respective municipal Acts. The Department of Municipal Affairs is the authority to which are submitted suggestions as to improvements and amendments in municipal law and administration. Through inspectors appointed for the purpose, the department makes an annual inspection of the municipal offices of all towns, villages and rural municipalities, and renders assistance to municipal officers respecting the discharge of their duties. The local municipal officials of the Province have associations which meet annually for the discussion of matters relating to law and administration. These associations, through their respective executives, keep in close touch with the department and present any suggestions or recommendations which they may deem desirable. These suggestions and recommendations are given careful consideration in the department.

WILD LANDS TAX BRANCH

The work of the department was extended at the beginning of 1918 by the establishing of a Wild Lands Tax Branch. This branch has charge of the assessment of wild lands in unorganised areas under The Wild Lands Tax Act. The branch also exercises a supervision over the assessment of wild lands in rural municipalities. The commissioner in charge of the said branch also examines from time to time the assessment and tax rolls of the various rural municipalities and equalises the assessment as between the different municipalities.

TOWN PLANNING BRANCH

In May, 1919, the work of the department was further extended by the establishment of the Town Planning Branch. This branch examines for approval development plans of subdivisions in accordance with the regulations respecting new streets and subdivisions and advises owners in respect to the requirements; examines townsites where necessary; advises municipalities on procedure and methods of action in respect to the adoption of development bylaws or town planning schemes.

GROWTH OF MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS

The following statement indicates the growth of Saskatchewan's municipal institutions:

| | 1905 | 1921 |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| Cities..... | 3 | 7 |
| Towns..... | 16 | 78 |
| Villages..... | 63 | 337 |
| Rural municipalities..... | 2 | 301 |

The rural portions of the Province which have not as yet been organised into rural municipalities, are included in local improvement districts. The assessment of these outlying areas is made directly by the department and the revenues obtained from the collection of the taxes are expended in meeting the cost of roads, bridges and other improvements.

BUREAU OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES

Both capital and labour have come to realise that all labour legislation of Saskatchewan is based upon broad principles looking to the mutual development and interests of employer, employee and the Province alike.

All Saskatchewan labour legislation has for its object the amelioration of the conditions of the wage earner, and it is all centered in one department branch of government known as the Bureau of Labour and Industries.

The bureau, however, has another most important function in addition to protecting and caring for the workers. It was recognised by the present Government that if the Province was to have an opportunity of developing industrially, this care and protection of wage earners was not in itself sufficient, and attention must be given to the problems of industry and particularly to the gathering of authentic information to encourage industrial development. Consequently during the 1919 session, when the status of the bureau was raised from that of a branch to a separate department of the Government, its powers were extended to make possible the investigation of problems of industry and the securing of information concerning natural resources.

ENCOURAGING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

An indication of how this work is to be done is found in the following extract from a speech delivered by Hon. Mr. Dunning in the Legislature when the Act regarding the bureau was introduced: "It is our intention," said the minister, "to give carefully prepared information to interested industries regarding the resources always with a view to encouraging industrial rather than speculative development. We do not desire to encourage speculative development because it is the welfare of the people of the Province we have to consider, and no one can claim that the people's welfare is served by speculative development. We desire in connection with the known resources of the province to carefully analyse them, to explore them, as it were, and then to size up how this Province can best co-operate in getting industries established on the ground in Saskatchewan to exploit these resources industrially."

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The other side of the work of the bureau, the protection and care of the wage earners, is carried on under the authority of a number of Acts. Respecting wages we have a Mechanics' Act, Woodmen's Lien Act, Threshing Employees' Act, An Act respecting the Payment of Wages to Certain Employees, The Minimum Wage Act and the Fair Wage Resolution of the Legislature. In relation to the conditions of employment we have The Factories Act, The Coal Mines Regulations Act, and The Female Labour Act, and for the protection of workers as a class we have in Saskatchewan The Masters and Servants Act, The Building Trades Protection Act, The Employment Agencies Act, and The Workmen's Compensation Act.

These laws are all administered from the offices of the Bureau of Labour and Industries by what is known as the inspection division. Specially qualified inspectors dealing with mines, factories and conditions of female employment are engaged by the bureau and are continually at work seeing that the various provisions of the law are equitably enforced.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Another important division in the bureau is the employment division. This section takes charge of the nine local employment offices operated by the Government throughout the Province, and also manages the local clearing house. These employment offices, for whose services no charge is made, are conducted solely for the purpose of bringing together the employer seeking help and the wage earner seeking employment. The extent to which these offices fill a need within the Province is shown by the fact that during the year 1920 over 49,000 persons were placed in situations, and during the harvest season alone some 16,000 additional workers were brought into the Province and distributed to farmers.

IMPORTING DOMESTICS

Last June the announcement was made by Hon. Mr. Dunning, who is the minister in charge of the Bureau of Labour and Industries, that Miss Francis Biden was being sent to England as a special representative of the Provincial Government to work in co-operation with the officials of the Federal Government with the special mission of securing capable and experienced domestic help for Saskatchewan.

In making the announcement Mr. Dunning said:

"There has been a crying need for domestic help in Saskatchewan for some years past, particularly on the farms, and we believe we may be able to supply this need to a certain extent and possibly in time the supply may prove equal to the demand. We depend upon the women of the Province to co-operate with our bureau so as to ensure that the girls we bring over will stay in domestic service once we get them there—that is of course until the inevitable happens and they have homes of their own."

The scheme then set working has met with conspicuous success. One hundred and thirty-four girls have been brought over and while a little shuffling about was necessary with four or five of the more restless before they were finally settled, out of the first hundred just one girl failed to live up to her agreement, left her position without warning and disappeared, with an indebtedness unpaid of about \$40. The record of the rest is exceedingly satisfactory. Letters have been received from many employers bearing testimony to the intelligence and industry of their domestic help, and the girls tell how kind and friendly their employers are, how they are making friends, learning Canadian ways, and how they are writing to relatives and friends in the Old Country to persuade them to come to Saskatchewan.

A total of over \$10,500 was advanced by the Provincial Government to pay the passage money and other expenses of the girls until they are placed and over half of this sum has already been paid back, 31 of the girls having paid up in full without waiting for the expiration of the period allowed by the Government for payment. The system followed is that all parties making application for domestic servants must deposit \$75 with the Government and this amount is reimbursed them in monthly instalments from the girls' wages. It is stipulated that no girl is to be paid less than \$30 per month, and that not more than \$10 per month is to be deducted from her wages. No fee is charged by the department for filling applications.

NATURAL RESOURCES

There is not the slightest doubt that there exist in Saskatchewan resources that will form the basis of much profitable industry. We have some of the finest clay deposits on the American continent; we have extensive pulp-wood forests, water powers capable of great development and coal areas almost inexhaustible. These resources are being carefully studied and authentic information obtained, which is placed at the disposal of intending investors, and there is every reason to believe that from investigation thus far the Province offers good opportunities for industrial development.

CLAY PRODUCTS

The field for research is so great and some of the problems so difficult that very expert help is required, and progress must of necessity be slow. The bureau, however has already done much in securing and studying information respecting the clay resources. A number of clay deposits have been located, samples of which have been worked into very fine specimens of face brick, floor tile, pottery and china ware. With reliable information as to the suitability of various clay deposits a large part of the element of risk in establishing a clay products plant can be eliminated, and it is expected that plants producing numerous lines of high grade clay products will soon be established.

The bureau has spent considerable time and money in investigating new deposits of coal. Hitherto practically our only development of the coal resources has been in the south-eastern part of the Province, but the bureau has located a number of outcroppings and coal indications in the western, north-western and north-eastern parts, which will be explored and tested with a view to ascertaining their commercial possibilities. The Government has also contributed largely to the experiments of the Lignite Utilisation Board, which is endeavouring to make the coal mined in the Estevan field more efficient and more readily marketable.

LIGNITE UTILISATION PLANT

It has been announced that the product of the Lignite Utilisation Board's plant will be placed on the market early this summer. This is the result of several years of effort on the part of the Government of Saskatchewan, which at length succeeded in having the Lignite Utilisation Board appointed in the fall of 1918. The Federal Government and the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan jointly appropriated the sum of \$400,000 for the work. An experimental plant was erected and the board investigated the relative weathering and storage qualities of the raw, air dried, oven dried and carbonised lignite; the heat and rate of carbonisation; the best fineness of the material to be briquetted; the binders available; the mixers, and qualities of binders necessary. The board believes that all these problems have now been successfully solved. The board at the outset was faced with the fact that nowhere in Canada or in the United States was there a commercially successful plant of this kind, but it prepared to show that the manufacture of these briquettes is commercially feasible. We shall soon, it is hoped, have a fuel with almost the same heating value as anthracite at a price lower than anthracite before the war, and then as Hon. Mr. Dunning put it "the eternal bogey we have in the winter as to whether we are going to have enough coal will be done away with."

SODIUM SULPHATE

In our sodium sulphate, we have a resource of enormous possibilities. For instance, in one bed of this material, which is used with wood pulp in the manufacture of paper, engineers have estimated that there are

six million tons. It has proved to be 96.36 per cent. pure, probably the highest in purity in the world. Many inquiries from paper mills in different parts of Canada regarding this deposit have already been made. Several other deposits of sodium sulphate have been located.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH

The development of the great north country is one of the ideals of the bureau and preliminary work in this direction has already been undertaken. During the summer season last year there was equipped and sent into that country a well balanced exploration party. This party travelled north from Prince Albert through Montreal lake, Lac la Ronge, down the Churchill river, Sturgeon-Weir, Beaver lake, Cumberland House and out by way of The Pas. The work of this party was of necessity a preliminary survey only, during which the possibilities of mineral development, fishing, water powers, timber and coal were merely noted. It is intended that a similar party should go north this summer to make a more intensive study of those resources which were reported by the first party as being worthy of immediate attention.

Already the bureau is in communication with capital in other parts of this country, as well as in Great Britain, to whom every information is being given concerning the possibilities of profitable operations in Saskatchewan.

WOMEN AND THEIR INTERESTS

The women of Saskatchewan were the first in Canada to vote on a Provincial issue, and as they now enjoy full rights of citizenship, all legislation passed by the Legislature of the Province is of the same importance to women as to men. There is, however, certain legislation of particular interest to women as safeguarding the welfare of children and the home, and a bulletin was recently issued by the present Government dealing with "Some Legislation Affecting Women and Children," from which the following brief extracts are taken. While much of this legislation is an inheritance from former governments, yet the present Provincial Government in the comparatively brief time it has been in office, is responsible for a large number of amendments and changes and also for the origination of many new statutes affecting particularly women and children.

THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT

This Act was overhauled in the session of 1917-18 and a large number of important changes were made. It was made compulsory for all cities of 10,000 population or more to maintain a children's shelter, and each such city must appoint one or more probation officers. When a children's aid society is dissolved, the care of the children devolves upon the superintendent.

The description of a neglected child was extended to include habitual vagrants; those employed at night; an illegitimate child whose mother is unable to maintain it, and whose parents or only living parent have or has been convicted of an offence under this Act or under The Criminal Code of Canada.

Evidence at a child's case must be taken under oath and written down, and depositions must be filed with the superintendent.

The expense of conveying a child to a shelter or industrial school shall be paid by the municipality in which the child is committed. The municipality where the child last resided for one year is responsible for its maintenance in a shelter, with right to collect money so spent in maintenance from the parents, and if they refuse to pay they may be imprisoned. Several other minor changes were made.

THE JUVENILE COURTS ACT

This Act was passed at the first session of 1917, and provides for the establishment of a juvenile court in every city and town in the Province, and the jurisdiction of each shall extend outside the limits of the city or town over such areas as may be added by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who may also establish a juvenile court for any rural municipality, rural district or village. The procedure of these courts is fully prescribed, and minor amendments have been made from time to time since the Act was first passed.

THE MOTHERS' PENSION ACT

The Mothers' Pension Act was passed by this Government at the second session of 1917, and provides for the payment of three dollars per week per child, to enable an indigent mother to rear her children herself. Formerly provision was made for the recovery of the amount of the pension from the municipality to which the mother belonged, but by an amendment passed at the last session the Government is now bearing the entire cost of these pensions. A total of 523 pensions have been granted of which 72 have been cancelled, and there are 451 mothers now receiving this pension.

AID TO INDIGENT EXPECTANT MOTHERS

A new policy was inaugurated by this Government under regulations of the Bureau of Public Health. Aid to the extent of \$25 is given to expectant mothers who for financial reasons may be unable to procure the necessary medical, hospital, nursing aid or clothing for herself or her expected child. Saskatchewan is the only Province in Canada doing such work, neither is it carried on anywhere else in North America.

THE INFANTS' ACT

This Act is of great interest to women. It deals with such matters as the handling of an infant's property, the powers and authority of appointed guardians and of the official guardian. The practice and procedure in such matters were formerly prescribed in certain rules of court, but this Government thought it well, in the session of 1918, to embody the law in this statute.

THE LEGITIMATION ACT

This Act is a very important one. It provides that where the parents of any child born out of lawful wedlock have intermarried after the birth of the child, either prior to or subsequent to the passing of this Act, the child shall for all purposes be deemed to be and to have been legitimate from the time of birth. The Act was passed in 1919.

THE HOMESTEAD ACT

While this Government did not originate this Act, which was passed in 1915, it has made many important amendments to it, and all of these amendments were designed to carry out the principle and intention of the Act, which is to recognise and secure the interest of the wife, or of the widow, in the homestead.

THE MARRIED WOMAN'S PROPERTY ACT

At the session of 1918-19, this Government amended this Act by providing means for disposing summarily of any question that may arise between husband and wife as to the title to or possession of property.

THE UNION HOSPITAL ACT

The first Union Hospital Act was passed shortly before the present Government took office. This Act, however was repealed, and a new Act passed at the first session of 1917. An idea of the way in which the first legislation on this subject was altered and expanded by this Government may be gained from the fact that the original Act contained only 17 sections, whereas there are now 63 sections.

Alternative methods of organising a hospital district are now provided for, and the Act is therefore in two parts. Part I applies to two or more complete rural municipalities co-operating with any number of urban municipalities to establish a union hospital at a location to be mutually decided upon; Part II applies to complete rural municipalities or portions of the same co-operating with any number of urban municipalities to establish a union hospital, the boundaries of the district and the location of the proposed hospital being defined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The net result is that every resident ratepayer in a district where a union hospital is established, is entitled, by payment of taxation levied to retire debentures issued for the purposes of the hospital, to free hospital treatment.

As the women have the same voting power as the men, and as the provision of hospitals is likely to be of more benefit to the female than to the male section of the community, the women of Saskatchewan are vitally interested in this method of providing increased hospital accommodation, which is proving highly successful.

THE MINIMUM WAGE ACT

This Act was passed in 1919, in order to fix standard minimum wages, hours of employment and conditions of labour for females. Under its provisions the minimum wage board was created, consisting of five persons two of whom are females. This board has issued a number of orders, declaring what wages are adequate to furnish the necessary cost of living, defining what are reasonable hours, and prescribing proper sanitary conditions.

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACT

This Act was passed at the session of 1918-19. It provides means by which the board of trustees of a town district or a high school district may carry on vocational or technical training either in connection with the day school or as evening classes. The board of management is a committee of ten, four to be named by the trustee board, three to be employers of labour named by the council of the municipality, and three to be employees named by such local organisations as the board of trustees may determine.

ACT RESPECTING THE SASKATCHEWAN REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION

This Act provides for the incorporation of a body to be known as The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association. To be entitled to register all nurses must pass an examination prescribed by an examining board appointed by the University of Saskatchewan, or must produce certificates of having passed examinations accepted as equivalent by the said board. The Act was passed in 1917, and in the session of 1919-20 an amendment was made providing for the education, training and supervision of a class of women to be known as nursing housekeepers, and for the registration of those who have completed the course of study, passed the necessary examinations, and satisfactorily met any other prescribed tests.

THE EGG MARKETING ACT

This Act, passed in 1920, deals with a matter in which many women are interested. The Act is designed to encourage dealers to exercise care in the handling and marketing of eggs; to discourage the practice of some producers of keeping eggs too long. All retailers handling eggs must be licensed, and they are prohibited from buying or selling eggs unfit for human consumption.

CHILD PROTECTION

NEGLECTED CHILDREN

In carrying out its general policy of working to ameliorate the lot of the unfortunate, the helpless and the afflicted, the Saskatchewan Provincial Government has devoted special attention to neglected and dependent children. A special branch of the Attorney General's Department devotes its whole activities to the care of neglected and dependent children, and at the close of the year 1920 there were 1,795 children under supervision. During the year 238 children became the wards of the Government.

At the close of 1920 there were awaiting homes under the care of this branch, 74 children; 24 at the Moose Jaw Children's Shelter; 22 at the Regina Children's Shelter; 10 at the Prince Albert Orphanage; 9 at the Catholic Convent, Ituna; 5 at the Sacred Heart Convent, Yorkton; 3 at the Babies' Welfare, Regina; and 1 at the Saskatoon Children's Shelter. There are also a number of children in various reform institutions, leaving the large total in foster homes in the Province of 1,650.

The following are a few brief extracts from the annual report of the Superintendent of Neglected Children:

"The greater portion of the younger children are found foster homes shortly after being taken in hand, and placed out on an agreement between the foster parents and the Superintendent, as it is not anticipated by the Act that they shall remain in institution longer than is actually necessary. These agreements are of three kinds. One which is styled a foster agreement, provides for the practical adoption of the child without any stipulation as to remuneration, and is particularly suited to the very young child who has become a member of the family. The older child agreement provides particularly for the schooling and training of the child with a small remuneration, and the third agreement for the child who is beyond compulsory school age, or who is found cannot be induced to continue school and is placed on a monthly or yearly salary.

"All of the salary earned by such children after providing for the necessary clothing is forwarded to the department and deposited to the credit of the child in his or her own name in a bank in trust by the superintendent. At present we have two hundred such accounts with a total of over seventeen thousand dollars and when children become of an age when they are allowed to do for themselves and when they are in need of funds for any specific reason to invest for themselves, this money is handed over to them. The foster homes are regularly inspected by inspectors employed for the purpose and every detail of the home surroundings gone into and reported on, including private interviews with the ward to ascertain if there is anything wrong or if any dissatisfaction exists. While foster homes are carefully selected, it is needless to say that some may be found to be unsuitable for the particular class of child placed, and some homes may, on account of changed conditions, become unsuitable when it is found necessary to remove the child. It is remarkable, however, how few of these cases we have to deal with and as the Act provides a penalty for any person, who having the custody of a child ill treats or neglects it, there is ample provision for its welfare and safety.

"Many are under the impression that the Government has a big institution where children can be placed and kept for an indefinite period and eventually restored to their parents. They do not understand that children can only be taken and scattered in foster homes. It is only troublesome children or children afflicted with blindness or deaf children who are sent to institutions. For the normal child coming under the care of this department, the Government has only temporary shelters where children are held while awaiting a proper and suitable foster home.

"Troublesome boys are sent to the Boys' Detention Home at Regina, and the girls are cared for in social service institutions outside of the Province.

"Deaf children are sent to the Deaf School in Winnipeg, and blind children to the School for the Blind at Brandon. These, except in a few cases, are not wards of the Government, but the Government bears the expense of their maintenance and tuition.

"They are doing splendid work at the School for the Deaf in Winnipeg as well as at the Blind School and there are some very bright students among those afflicted with loss of sight or deafness. Cases of blindness or deafness are reported to us sometimes by parents or relatives, but usually by the school inspectors, and the Province sees that these children are given a good education."

JUVENILE COURTS

The Juvenile Court was established about three years ago, and much good has resulted from its operations. Very many young delinquents, instead of being charged, convicted and treated in the same way as adult criminals, have been given a chance to retrieve their characters.

To prove that the boys who have come into the court during the three years are not criminals, the records show that out of 265 cases only 23 came into court a second time. This excellent result is largely due to the efforts of the probation officers, who have been described as the very right arms of the court. These officers not only do the most valuable work in guiding and helping children who have been guilty of wrong-doing, but by patrolling the streets, taking home children found out late at night, visiting pool rooms and generally keeping children out of mischief, they prevent very many from going wrong.

Comparatively few children come into court through their own fault. The records of the year 1920 show that out of 314 cases only 103 came into court when the blame might be attached to themselves, and from this number another 37 might be deducted, leaving only 66. From this it may be inferred that for the most part the home and the home training is what is at fault, and it would manifestly be unjust to punish the children who fall down as the result of conditions for which they are not responsible.

BOYS' DETENTION HOME

Speaking of the Boys' Detention Home, the report of the National Committee on Mental Hygiene gives a brief description of the building and grounds and says:

"Most of the boys in residence attend school. They receive a thorough physical training and, from the standpoint of health, are in a splendid condition—a pleasing contrast to the situation found in many detention homes.

"All the inmates were well kept and appeared cheerful and happy. Their department was sufficient proof that the influence of those in charge was of the highest character. It was pleasing to note that there were no bars or bolts and that discipline was being maintained by kindly methods."

This comment from an unprejudiced and impartial authority is appreciated by the officials who have been working so hard to carry out the purpose of this home—the turning into good citizens of boys who were in danger of becoming a menace to the community.

THE CARE OF THE INSANE

No higher compliment has been paid to the Government of Saskatchewan than was given in the official report of the Canadian National Committee of Mental Hygiene on the completion of a mental hygiene survey of the Province of Saskatchewan, conducted on the invitation of Hon. W. M. Martin, Premier of the Province, to assist the Government in promoting a suitable policy for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cause of mental abnormality. This committee is entirely independent of any Government or institution. The following are some extracts from the report:

"The Province has shown a deep interest in the affairs of the insane, and has been almost lavish in its expenditures to provide accommodation for patients requiring custodial care. Dr. MacNeill and his assistant, Dr. Campbell, at the Battleford Hospital for the insane, are capable and enthusiastic administrators, and have gathered about them a staff willing and anxious to do the most advance work. During the war they were, of course, greatly hampered, but in spite of that carried on most courageously.

"The medical staff at the Battleford Hospital show a keen interest in the scientific study and care of their patients, and the absence of excitement in the wards was to be explained largely by the fact that the hydrotherapeutic treatment is employed intelligently and with good effect. No less than ten continuous baths are to be found in the hospital, and at the time of our visit they were nearly all occupied by restless patients. Something between forty and fifty hydro-treatments per day are given, and the arrangements for the administration of different forms of spray douches and electric baths are admirable.

"Our report in 1918 was on the whole laudatory, and it was considered that Battleford ranked high among Canadian institutions. At the present time its claim to pre-eminence is more than ever established. Those of us who have spent many years in connection with hospitals realise that an institution depends on something more than elaborate buildings for its success, and although Battleford is magnificently equipped in a material sense, yet it has a personnel in charge that would accomplish splendid things no matter how meagre and crude the surroundings.

"Possibly the most outstanding feature of the work at Battleford is the development in occupational therapy—a line of treatment that produces the best results both with acute and chronic cases. An institution with its patients fully occupied is one that is easy to manage, and a happy home for its inmates."

Not only is everything possible done for the patients when they are in hospital, but a separate branch of the Public Works Department, administers estates of patients. With the increase in the population of the Province came a proportional increase in the number of the mentally ill, and the number of estates administered has increased from 65 in the year 1915—the first year after the branch was established—to 446 in 1921. The total value of the real estate administered at present amounts to nearly half a million dollars and the total estates, over three quarters of a million dollars.

The Province of Saskatchewan was the second in the Dominion of Canada to undertake this exceedingly valuable service and there is no Province in the Dominion where such services have been of greater benefit to the dependents and patients.

In a great many cases the affairs of the mentally ill who return to their homes are in a far better position than when they were admitted to the mental hospital. It is perfectly natural that this should be the case, as most of the patients before their mental disorder reached the stage making hospital treatment necessary, had been letting things run down and the very nature of the illness has made it difficult, if not impossible, to properly look after their business, while they have been suffering from mental disorder, if the case has not been considered serious enough to have them committed to hospital.

A large number of the estates handled are not shown in the subjoined table, as they were temporary cases where the patients returned in a short time to their homes, and these short term cases have in many instances been the most difficult to look after. A large majority of the estates handled are in the country and the duties of the administrator are much more complicated than if the estates were in cities or towns, as it means that provision must be made to look after the farm and the live stock, to provide for seed and feed, and in years of crop failures and scarcity of feed the responsibility has been very heavy. The increasing value of the estates and the heartfelt gratitude of the patients who have returned to their homes and found their farms in nearly every instance much better than when they left them, is a tribute to the efficiency of this branch.

The work began with the bringing of 416 patients from Brandon, when the mental hospital at Battleford was opened. The following table gives the figures from April 30, 1915, to February, 1921:

| April 30th | No. of estates | Number released | Cash in bank | Total value of real estate | Total assets |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1915..... | 65 | .. | \$7,172 | \$ 99,920 | \$126,233 |
| 1916..... | 105 | 6 | 21,264 | 106,990 | 150,099 |
| 1917..... | 158 | 10 | 46,261 | 199,570 | 259,977 |
| 1918..... | 206 | 4 | 32,260 | 269,425 | 400,979 |
| 1919..... | 307 | 20 | 39,224 | 322,741 | 497,884 |
| 1920..... | 390 | 5 | 26,764 | 405,801 | 603,649 |
| 1921..... | 446 | 7 | 60,277 | 498,311 | 767,624 |

While the hospital at Battleford is considered today one of the best institutions on the continent for the mentally ill, and while Saskatchewan has the lowest percentage of insane of any Province in Canada, it has been found necessary to build a second mental hospital, and there is now under construction at Weyburn a new mental hospital which will cost over two million dollars when finished.

When this building is completed it will be an institution second to none on the continent in its equipment for rendering the best services to those who may require treatment. The building will be 980 feet long with administrative section, and the end portion of each wing three storeys high with basement, while the wings proper will be two storeys high and basement. At the present time it is intended to erect the administrative and two wings only, but provision is made in the plan for the addition of two more wings.

Immediate accommodation will be provided for approximately 400 patients and the additional wings will accommodate 200 patients more.

One of the most serious problems which has confronted the officials at Battleford has been the care of patients who are also sufferers from tubercular and other pulmonary diseases. In planning the new building at Weyburn the architect has provided spacious and airy quarters with large verandahs facing the south where patients of this class can be given every care.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health laws of the Province of Saskatchewan are amongst the most advanced of any of the Provinces of Canada, and many of them, particularly those relating to water supply and sewage disposal, have been found so satisfactory that they have been copied by practically all the other provinces.

The public health laws of Saskatchewan contain the regulations issued and administered by the Commissioner of Public Health, and the following list gives some idea of the many subjects covered by specific regulations and of the scope of the work of the bureau:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Infectious diseases. | Plumbing. |
| Water and sewage. | Trachoma. |
| Hotels and restaurants. | Hospitals. |
| Common lodging houses. | Dairies. |
| Embalmers and undertakers. | Camps. |
| Nuisances. | Cemeteries. |
| Health districts. | Vaccine and serums. |
| Tenement houses. | |

HOSPITALS

At the end of the year 1916 there were twenty-seven hospitals scattered over the Province, which were supervised by the Government and aided by grants. These provided good hospital accommodation in the cities and towns in which they were located, but the Government saw that some action should be taken if the rural residents were to enjoy the hospital privileges afforded to those living in cities. The scarcity of medical and nursing aid and the rapid increase of the population had brought about a state of affairs in which the old method of establishing and maintaining hospitals by voluntary contributions was entirely inadequate. The Union Hospital Act of 1917 was the Government's solution of the problem.

Put as briefly as possible, the system thus set up is as follows: Two or more municipalities may co-operate in establishing and maintaining a hospital at a point to be mutually agreed upon. For the construction and maintenance of the hospital, debentures may be sold and a tax levied of a little over 2 mills on the dollar or roughly \$5 per quarter section. For this small sum, hospital treatment free of charge is provided for the ratepayer, his wife, family and dependents.

The main consideration about these hospitals is the adequate provision which they afford for maternity cases. Where one of these hospitals exist, the prairie mother has a chance to get away from the undesirable conditions inseparable from childbirth on an isolated farm, and provision can be made against emergencies and unforeseen complications, which the equipment and staff of a modern hospital afford at this critical period. As the secretary of a rural municipality, where there is a Union Hospital, has put it, "we are saving the lives of our women for the small cost of three-quarters of a cent per acre."

Union hospitals have been built and are in operation at Edam, Eston, Kerrobert, Lampman, Lloydminster, Rosetown, Shaunavon, Wadena, Davidson and Kindersley. Union hospital districts have been established

tributary to Battleford, Biggar, Cabri, Colonsay, Cut Knife, Govan, Dinsmore, Herbert, Horizon, Indian Head, Kamsack, Melfort, Norquay, Moosomin, Outlook, Strasbourg, Unity and Wynyard, and construction will be undertaken in most of these districts this year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Effort is made to inspect and report on all hospitals receiving Government aid and to encourage them to reach the minimum standard set up by the Bureau of Public Health. At present Saskatchewan has a hospital bed for every four hundred of our population, and in maternity cases one of every seven births occurs in a hospital, a record which compares very favourably with that of other provinces and states of the American Union.

It was found that many of the deaths among infants were due to preventable causes and a campaign of education was started, particularly for young mothers, by holding infant welfare conferences. Nineteen of these clinics were held in 1919 at which lectures were given and defects pointed out. Home nursing classes were added to this work, and two nurses carrying complete equipment for demonstrating, gave instruction in the general care of the sick and special instruction regarding the care of young children.

Sanitary inspectors are continually touring the Province inspecting and reporting, conferring with boards of health, holding educative meetings on the subjects of food protection, ventilation and precautions to be observed against communicable disease, and visiting and regulating lumber camps. Their first object is to enlist the co-operation of local authorities in sanitary measures that will improve the health and comfort of residents.

Sanitary engineering is one of the most important lines of work of the bureau. Careful supervision is given to all water supply and sewerage systems, in order to safeguard the purity of public water supplies, and to see that rivers and lakes are not polluted. Much care and time has been given to the problem of sewage disposal at institutions and public buildings where there is no municipal sewerage system. An extensive survey of the systems of sewage disposal in rural homes has been made and full information on this important matter is being disseminated.

A very careful survey of city milk supplies has recently been concluded. Field conditions were examined and in addition bacterial counts and sediment tests were made, the analytical work being done by an experienced bacteriologist. As the different cities show themselves willing and eager to adopt the suggestions of the bureau, a marked improvement should soon be seen, with a corresponding reduction in the amount of milk borne diseases.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Whenever an outbreak of any communicable disease occurs, the inspectors of the bureau are immediately rushed to the scene, where they see to the enforcement of the regulations, give advice as to methods of control, and take measures to guard against spreading. The success or otherwise of the efforts of the bureau in this connection can best be ascertained by an examination of the statistics showing the death rate per 100,000 of the population from the various infectious or contagious diseases.

In typhoid fever, looking over the records of the years from 1910 to 1919, it is found that during the first five years the mortality rate per 100,000 of the people from this disease was 24.04, while in the last half of this decade the rate was only 8.06, a very significant and encouraging result. The reduction is due to improved sanitary arrangements, and

also to the use of typhoid vaccine, which the bureau has always strongly advocated:

In diphtheria, there has been an appreciable reduction both in the number of cases and in the number of deaths, especially in the last four years. The cases were reduced from 1,005 in 1917 to 480 in 1920, and the death rate from 14.1 per 100,000 in 1917 to 9.5 in 1919. This reduction is without doubt due to the action the Government took in September, 1917, in supplying diphtheria antitoxin free of charge to all physicians in the Province. Formerly antitoxin was used so sparingly that many unnecessary deaths occurred, as the poorer people could not afford to pay for the necessary antitoxin. In 1919 it was distributed free by the Bureau of Public Health at a cost of \$2,263 to the Government. Had this been bought at prevailing store prices, it would have cost over \$18,000, thus showing a saving to the people in one year alone of over \$15,000.

The death rate from tuberculosis is gradually declining, which is due in some measure to the early cases taking advantage of sanatorium treatment. The rate has fallen from 33 in 1917 to 25.6 per 100,000 in 1919. The Government has done and will continue to do all in its power to combat this disease, which is one of the most fatal we have.

A special nurse was detailed to look after trachoma cases in 1919, and after a survey 423 cases were found. 139 cases were discovered in schools, and 74 of these were cured by December of the same year. Regular visits are made to all schools in a certain district, as well as to other districts where trachoma is prevalent.

The Government has been very energetic in its efforts to control venereal disease, and its legislation in this respect is very advanced. Eight dispensaries have been established in different parts of the Province, where free diagnosis and treatment is given to any suffering from these diseases who present themselves. Two social workers are engaged in seeing that cases requiring treatment do not neglect same.

Several other diseases might be taken up in the same way and the success of the bureau's efforts shown, but perhaps enough has been said to show that the Bureau of Public Health is a live department of the Government, eager to seize every opportunity to promote and protect the health of the people of Saskatchewan.

SASKATCHEWAN'S POLICY TOWARDS HER SOLDIERS AND RETURNED MEN

The first step taken by the Government of Saskatchewan to protect the property and interests of volunteers and reservists, either in our own army or navy or those of our allies, was the passage during the special session of the Legislature in September, 1914, of a Moratorium Act, under which the Lieutenant Governor in Council was given power to postpone payment of debts. A number of proclamations were issued under this Act, until in March, 1916, The Act for the Relief of Volunteers and Reservists was passed, which cancelled these proclamations as it included all their provisions.

The Government in the elections of 1917 provided that three members should be elected to represent the soldiers in the legislature, one for the soldiers in Great Britain, and two for the soldiers in France and Belgium.

In order to protect and exempt from taxation certain property of members, and their dependents, of our military and naval forces the Government passed a number of amendments to existing Acts.

In cities, towns and villages it was provided that the house and lots occupied as a "home" by a soldier or his wife, at the time such soldier was finally accepted for overseas service were exempted from taxation to the extent of \$50 per annum (except in villages where there was no limit) from the first day of the year of enlistment until the year following the discharge of the soldier, but not beyond the year 1920. The soldier was exempted from poll tax, and buildings and grounds owned and occupied by a branch of the Great War Veterans' Association were exempted from all taxation. Pensions paid to a member, or ex-member, of our military or naval forces, or to a dependent of such, were exempted from income tax, and power was given to grant aid to such organisations as the Patriotic Fund and Red Cross Society.

In rural municipalities one quarter section occupied by a soldier or his wife as a home at the time such soldier was finally accepted for overseas service, or which was at that time his "homestead," and an additional quarter section within the same or an adjoining municipality was exempted from taxation for one year from the discharge of the soldier or until January 1, 1921; in the case of the death of the soldier on active service the benefits of this property exemption accrued to his personal representatives. Such exemption is retroactive to the first day of enlistment of the soldier, and is subject to the provisions mentioned.

In local improvement and school districts, the same exemption from taxation was granted. The exemption in this case is also retroactive, and the personal representatives benefit in the same way in case the soldier dies on active service.

Under The Wild Lands Tax Act exemption from the tax is provided for under certain conditions for a resident upon a farm of at least 80 acres,

and by an amendment to the Act an individual owner absent on active service is deemed to be in actual residence upon the land.

EMPLOYMENT

Following out the suggestions adopted at an interprovincial conference held at Ottawa, a Returned Soldiers' Employment Commission was organised for Saskatchewan in November, 1915, and its work was taken over on April 1, 1917, by the Saskatchewan Returned Soldiers' Employment Commission, incorporated by a bill passed by the Legislature of that year.

The matter of employment, however, is not now in the hands of the commission, having been taken over by the Dominion-Provincial Employment Service. The Dominion Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment have an "Information and Service" Branch, with an information officer in each military district, who may have a representative in each labour office, and whose duties are to keep a record of, and assist in any way, all returned men seeking employment.

RETURNED MEN IN AGRICULTURE

Realising the increasing necessity for mixed farming, the Saskatchewan Government, through the Department of Agriculture, has made provision for supplying *bona fide* farmers with good foundation stock at first cost and on easy terms. The stock is supplied under various options, and two of these options, under which the terms are especially easy are offered to returned soldiers only.

Under legislation passed in 1917, a number of existing co-operative creameries were united into one company, to which the Government can give financial assistance to the extent of 75 per cent. of the cost, for the construction, remodelling, equipment and maintenance in Saskatchewan of creameries, cold storage warehouses, cheese factories, etc. In the event of certain localities of the Province being colonised by returned soldiers, on application sufficiently signed, the full cost of such acquisition or construction may be loaned by the Government.

EDUCATION

The Government, through the Department of Education made a number of special concessions to returned men who desired to enter or continue in the teaching profession, making it easier for them either to obtain permanent teaching certificates, or to enter the normal schools.

The children of deceased or disabled soldiers of the army of Canada or of any of His Majesty's Allies may be given assistance in the matter of education for a period up to three years after the applicant is accepted, or shall have obtained the standing required for entrance to the university, or for a second class certificate.

WILLS

An important amendment to The Wills Act, which is retroactive to August 4, 1914, reads as follows: "A soldier being in actual military service or a mariner or seaman at sea, may dispose of his personalty in the manner in which he might have done before the passage of this Act, and may dispose of his real estate in the same manner as his personal: and he may do so in either case notwithstanding that he may be under the age of twenty-one years."

THE SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BOARD

The duties of the Soldier Settlement Board include the carrying out of measures to aid soldiers and sailors in resuming occupations in civil life, and particularly the granting of land to them. In view of the national importance of this question and in order that there should be no obstacle to prompt action on the part of the Province of Saskatchewan while the Legislature was not in session, an Act was passed giving to the Lieutenant Governor in Council all the powers of the Legislature itself to assist the Soldier Settlement Board in the furtherance of the objects for which it was created, which include the taking of land expropriation proceedings.

THE SOLDIERS' ESTATES BRANCH

This branch of the Department of the Attorney General was created in 1918. Its aim has been to furnish information and assistance to soldiers and to the dependents of those who have been killed or who have died on active service. Judging by the extent to which the services of the branch have been invoked, it has met with no small measure of success, for it was found that having the law department of the Government deal with their difficulties in civil life appealed greatly to the soldiers.

The administration of the estates of deceased soldiers represents the major part of the work of the branch. Since it began to function, there have been prepared for court documents in support of 568 applications for Grants of Administration of Probate. The aim of those in charge of the branch has been to place the deceased's beneficiaries in the possession and enjoyment of the property to which they are entitled with all possible expedition and with a minimum of trouble. The question of expense does not arise, as the services of the branch are free, and provision is made for the payment by the Government of the usual Surrogate Court fees and the Land Titles fees incidental to the transmission and transfer of estate realty.

The correspondence of the branch has always been heavy, and advice has been given in over 12,000 cases involving many complicated questions of law and fact. In several instances the inquiries on matters of law have crystallised into very beneficial legislation in the interests of the soldier body. As examples of this might be mentioned the provisions enabling a soldier under twenty-one years of age to make a valid will and the legalising of soldiers' wills disposing of land without the usual formalities of law.

SASKATCHEWAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Man's greatest achievement in intercommunicatory invention is the telephone. Its possibilities for practical use created at first no very great nor very general impression, but its position is now established as an indispensable adjunct of modern comfort and convenience.

The application of its use was at first confined within and between clusters of population. The outlying scattered masses had not been reached nor had any apparent effort been made to render available its service until a general demand began to arise in agricultural districts for a utility so pre-eminently fitted for general use. Suggestions began to be made that the retention of control of a utility so fitted to ameliorate conditions and increase productive capacity should no longer be left to corporations but should be assumed by government. Suggestions gave way to definite expression, and definite expression gave way to demand—the wider the area the more general the demand—until governments began to consider ways and means of meeting the popular wish.

In the prairie provinces, devoted altogether to agricultural pursuits, where distances are long and seasons short, and where the people are not only progressive but aggressive, the demand as might be expected was unanimous and insistent. It had sympathetic response, each province adopting a plan of development of the service which it believed best suited to meet the situation.

GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATES WITH PEOPLE

Caution was exercised by Saskatchewan. This was prompted by rumored indifferent success which had attended efforts made elsewhere to cover the rural field. The services of an expert were engaged. Information was collected and compiled. Consideration and digestion of this information brought decision to adopt the policy of co-operation. By this plan it was hoped to more quickly overtake the needs of the rural district and as well assure freedom of expression and action—logical expansion—cheaper maintenance—lower rates—more efficient management—and natural definition of boundaries of telephone areas. Decision of the Government was crystallized in legislation, the outstanding features of which are:

- (a) Government ownership of trunk lines and exchanges.
- (b) Local ownership and control by farmers of rural lines.
- (c) Government supervision of all lines.
- (d) Elimination of the dividend-earning principle from the use of rural lines.

But the effort of the Government to meet the popular wish did not end with the passing of legislation. It entered actively into co-operation with the people in developing and maintaining a rural service by:

- (1) maintaining a staff whose time is devoted wholly to organization of rural companies when undertaken by rural companies;
- (2) furnishing the necessary forms for this work as well as forms for the application and authorization of debenture issues;
- (3) attending to incorporation procedure required of the company;
- (4) placing supporting information before the Local Government Board when application is made by the company for permission to issue debentures;
- (5) advice in matters pertaining to the running of the affairs of the companies;
- (6) inspecting the construction of rural lines;
- (7) conducting and maintaining a school of instruction during the winter months where farmers or their sons may gain practical knowledge of troubles that interrupt service on rural lines and the way to remove them;

(8) free advice at any time from our engineering, commercial and traffic branches;

(9) installing and maintaining central equipment in the smaller exchanges and placing the operating of the service in such places under the control of connecting companies.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

And there has been abundant reason for satisfaction with results achieved through the policy of co-operation not only along the line of rapid extension but as well with the substantial character of initial construction work done. It is of high standard and calculated to ensure service—and to continue to do so with the exercise of ordinary care in maintenance and operating methods. There has been erected within the Province under the plan adopted:

(1) approximately 58,000 miles of poles which if placed in continuous line would reach more than twice around the earth or fifteen times across the continent—an average of over 5,000 miles per year;

(2) approximately 200,000 miles of wire strung—enough to encircle the earth eight times or cross the continent fifty times—an average of 20,000 miles per year;

(3) approximately 58,000 rural subscribers or more than twice as many as in the other prairie Provinces combined although they started development of service about the same time;

(4) approximately 90,000 telephone stations in the Province or one for every ten of the population—a development equal to the United States to the south with its many very large centres of population. With an average of five users to the phone 450,000 of our people are within easy reach of service—that means half the population.

So that the hope that prompted the adoption of the policy for speedily supplying service has had satisfactory realization in that it finds the Province covered in great part with small systems operated as a convenience, managed locally, standardized in construction to meet the requirements of good telephone practice with a central office acting in an advisory and supervisory capacity and all linked together with trunk lines the whole giving a system operated by the Government and the people to meet the needs of the various sections of the Province.

Details of development follow:

TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT

| Government System— | 1909 | 1920 |
|---|-------|---------|
| Exchanges..... | 20 | 282 |
| Toll offices..... | 53 | 435 |
| Subscribers..... | 3,412 | 30,592 |
| Long distance pole miles..... | 1,132 | 6,100 |
| Long distance wire miles..... | 3,280 | 31,000 |
| Rural System— | | |
| Rural companies..... | 76 | 1,212 |
| Pole mileage, rural companies..... | 2,047 | 52,887 |
| Wire mileage, rural companies..... | | 172,941 |
| Rural subscribers.... | 2,118 | 58,878 |
| New Work for 1921— | | |
| Application for incorporation of new companies..... | | 18 |
| Pole mileage..... | | 200 |
| Subscribers..... | | 214 |
| Extensions to existing systems..... | | 215 |
| Pole mileage..... | | 2,215 |
| Subscribers..... | | 2,858 |
| Total applications..... | | 233 |
| Total pole mileage..... | | 2,415 |
| Total subscribers..... | | 3,072 |

Outside Points Reached—

Western Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Since the Province of Saskatchewan was formed in 1905, there have been constructed by the Provincial Government, public buildings to the value of \$4,971,623 and at the present time public buildings to the value of \$2,104,073 are under construction.

At the time the Province was created, all Government buildings in that portion of the Northwest Territories out of which Saskatchewan was erected belonged to the Dominion Government, and they were purchased by the Province, after a board of arbitrators had placed a valuation upon them. The price paid by the Province was \$213,958.29.

The following buildings have been constructed by the Provincial Government since 1905: Court House at Saskatoon, 1907, \$5,900; Court House at Moose Jaw, 1907, \$57,000; Court House at Battleford, 1908, \$42,900; Court House at Arcola, \$27,045; Court House and Land Titles Office, Humboldt, 1914, \$79,900; Court House and Land Titles Office, Swift Current, 1914, \$103,000; Court House at Yorkton, 1920, \$129,750; Court House at Kerrobert, 1920, \$161,587; Land Titles Office at Regina, 1907, \$94,996; Land Titles Office, Saskatoon, 1909, \$26,700; Land Titles Office, Moose Jaw, 1910, \$35,920; Land Titles Office, Battleford, 1907, \$31,123; Land Titles Office at Arcola, 1911, \$29,200; Land Titles Office at Moosomin, 1912, \$34,692; Parliament Buildings, Regina, 1909-10, \$1,700,000; Provincial Office Buildings, Cornwall Street, Regina, 1919-20, \$149,962; Mental Hospital, Battleford, 1913, \$1,716,455; Normal School, Regina, 1913, \$231,645; Provincial Jail at Regina, 1914, \$273,848.

The buildings now under construction by the Provincial Government are as follows: Mental Hospital at Weyburn, \$1,492,396; Home for Infirm at Wolseley, 1920, \$148,678; Normal School, Saskatoon, 1920, \$462,999; New Power House for Parliament Buildings, 1920, \$251,757.

This list does not include the buildings at the University of Saskatchewan, constructed or under construction, or the new jail at Prince Albert, some of the preliminary work on which has already been done, and which will be pushed to completion.

The Government hopes to be able to start this year on the construction of the Saskatchewan War Memorial building, which will stand close by the Parliament Buildings in Regina.

Aside from the buildings constructed by the Government, detachment quarters for the Provincial Police have been purchased by it at the following points: Melfort, Canora, Young, Turtleford, Elrose, Holdfast, Craik, Prince Albert, Ogema, Elbow, Weyburn and North Battleford.

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INFORMATIVE POINTS IN

SASKATCHEWAN GOVT. POLICY AND RECORD

**FACTS,
FIGURES, AND
PROGRAMME**

**CLEARLY, SHORTLY AND
INTERESTINGLY EXPLAINED**